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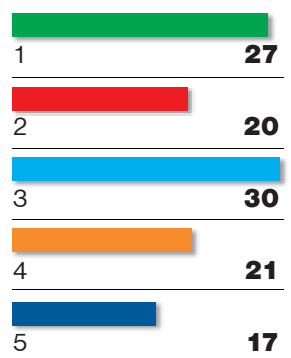
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Sunday, November 30, 2008

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DAYS

INSIDE



Meryl Redux

Meryl Streep loves to tell the story about how one learns to be king.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Burglary, theft incidents on the rise on Saipan. **PAGE 2**

Maratita is crowned 2009 Miss Marianas. **PAGE 4**

Woman dies in car crash

4th crash fatality in 2 weeks, 9th this year

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A woman was killed while her husband was seriously hurt when the car they were driving swerved along Beach Road and slammed into a concrete fence of a residential compound in Oleai Saturday night.

See **WOMAN** on Page 4



OPERATION HOMEFRONT

About 125 family members, on-island military personnel, and community members were on hand at the Army Reserve Center yesterday to prepare care boxes that would be shipped to CNMI soldiers who are currently deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world. See story on Page 5.

KRISTI EATON

Labor: 624 aliens overstaying

Dead basketball player also on the list

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

According to Department of

Labor, there are a total of 624 overstaying alien workers in the CNMI, based on their records as of Tuesday last week.

In a Labor notice issued today, most people in the overstayers report are said to be Filipinos

See **LABOR** on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The concrete fence of a residential compound in Oleai shows a big hole after a car slammed into it Saturday night. The passenger died while the driver survived.

Homeland Security site details transition process

By **KRISTI EATON**
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has updated its website to include information regarding the CNMI's transition to U.S. immigration laws.

The information includes background on the Consoli-

dated Natural Resources Act of 2008 or Public Law 110-229. The webpage also includes information on the implementation and significant provisions of the law; CNMI immigration law until the transition period starts; federal responsibilities; visa information; and employ-

See **HOMELAND** on Page 4



AFTER 60 HOURS, 174 DEAD

India ends Mumbai rampage

By **RAMOLA TALWAR BADAM**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

MUMBAI, India (AP)—It took just 10 young men armed with rifles and grenades to terrorize this city of 18 million

See **INDIA** on Page 4

Sister Meeta Gohil, in green dress, and relatives and neighbors mourn as they attend the funeral of Hareesh Gohil, 25, who was killed by gunmen near Chabad-Lubavitch center, also known as Nariman House in Mumbai, India, Saturday, Nov. 29, 2008.

RELATED NEWS

India terror begins with corpses on train platform. **PAGE 15**

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Local

Burglary, theft incidents on the rise on Saipan

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Burglary and theft cases have been increasing at an alarming rate on Saipan the past several weeks.

The Department of Public Safety reported only this week a burglary and theft incident that happened at a residence in Dandan last Nov. 12.

DPS acting spokesman Jason Tarkong said Police Officer David Rabauliman, who responded to a call at a residence in Dandan, interviewed a couple who said that they have been robbed of three laptops, several pieces of jewelry, a DVD player, video

games players, and other items totaling \$8,000.

"There was no evidence of a break in. Officer Rabauliman learned that the main door was not locked. This case is under investigation," the acting DPS spokesperson said.

The couple told police that they left for work that morning at 9am. The husband arrived home at 12pm that day and found his living room in disarray.

Cabinets and drawers were left open and he noticed several items were missing. He immediately called the police.

Tarkong said a crime scene technician arrived and processed the scene.

Saipan Tribune learned that the victims are Jonjie and Nhing Reyes.

The Reyes couple described the stolen items as one black IBM Thinkpad laptop; one gray Dell Latitude laptop; one white Asus Eee mini-laptop; one black portable Playstation; two portable Playstations; one pink Sony digital camera; one blue 4G Ipod mini mp3 player; one Audiovox portable DVD player in a black Case Logic bag; one Swiss Army knife; and one Gerber multi-function pliers.

The stolen jewelry include one gold baht chain necklace with "I love you" dog tag pendant; one gold ring with dia-

mond "J" initial; one gold ring with a ruby birthstone; one gold and diamond ID bracelet with the name "Jonjie"; and one gold and diamond 48-stone tennis bracelet.

Other jewelry stolen were one Rositas ring and earrings set; one blue sapphire ring and earrings set; two white gold necklaces with pendant; one stud heart-shaped diamond earring;

and one gold chain necklace.

The Crime Stoppers Program is offering up to \$1,000 cash to anyone who can provide information about the Dandan burglary that will lead to an arrest.

Saipan Tribune also learned that on Thursday a room at New Century Apartment in Lower Dandan was burglarized and stolen were a laptop and assorted jewelry.

Last week, an electronics shop in Garapan was also burglarized and some items were stolen.

Last week, a restaurant employee in Garapan was also robbed by still unidentified person.

DPS has yet to release to the media information related to the three cases along with many other burglary incidents on the island the past several weeks.

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CNMI SOLDIERS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Nov. 25, a deployment ceremony was held for the 368th Military Police Company, Detachment 20 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. From left to right: Staff Sergeant Brandon Sana, Sergeant Edward Sablan, Sergeant Joellene Abadam, Specialist Tina Tenorio, Specialist John Lizama, and Captain Clarence Tenorio. Staff Sergeant Sana, Sergeant Sablan, Specialist Tenorio, and Specialist Lizama will deploy next week in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



CNMI Water Task Force ITB09-GOV-021



Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the lease of a warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **November 17, 2008**.

Any questions regarding this Invitation for Bids should be addressed to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, CNMI Water Task Force at (670) 664-2285, or via facsimile at (670) 664-2279 before **December 1, 2008**.

Sealed Bids must be marked "**Lease of Warehouse, ITB09-GOV-021**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, December 10, 2008** at which time Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Bid procedures shall be in full compliance with Article 3, Part A, Section 3-102 of the Regulations. Preference is available to U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the **BID** if preference claimed.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Timothy P. Villagomez
Lt. Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Labor issues order on a 5-year-old complaint

Employers permanently barred from hiring alien workers

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has issued an order in a labor case that was filed five years ago by three security guards against their former employers.

In the order issued Wednesday last week, Labor hearing officer Jerry Cody found respondents Leonard C. Ramos, owner of the defunct Leonard Security Agency, and its agent, Perfecto C. Ramos, in violation of the Nonresident Workers Act.

Cody said the respondents committed the violations by collecting processing fees from Renato G. Cotin; by failing to pay for medical expenses and other legitimate expenses for Dominador P. Andres and Celso D. Agpawa; and by failing to provide employment contracts to all three.

The hearing officer permanently barred the respondents from employing alien workers in the CNMI.

He ordered the respondents to pay Cotin \$375, Andres \$45, and Agpawa \$116 in reimbursement for expenses unlawfully collected.

Cody also found the respondents liable to all complainants for failing to provide them contracts but did not award any monetary damages to the complainants.

The hearing officer, however, issued a ruling favorable to the respondents with respect to Agpawa's unpaid overtime wages claim as well as the transportation expenses claim by Cotin and Andres.

Cody allowed the complainants to seek a new employer.

Agpawa, Cotin, and Andres filed the labor complaint against the respondents on Aug. 25, 2003.

The complainants—all employees or former employees of Leonard Ramos—had worked as security guards for Leonard Security Agency from about 1999 until 2003.

When the business closed, the three filed the complaint alleging four causes of action: reimbursement of processing fees and other assorted expenses for all three; unpaid wages for Agpawa; unpaid transportation fees for Cotin and Andres; and failure to provide copies of employment contracts to all three of them.

The case was forwarded to the Labor Division for investigation. The division never issued a determination regarding this case.

In 2007, the Labor Hearing Office placed the case on the hearing calendar at the request of complainants. At that time, Anthony Long, Leonard Ramos' lawyer, stated that he had no means to contact his client and was unaware of his whereabouts.

Shortly before the hearing in November 2008, Long disclosed that he had received a telephone call from his client, who is currently serving in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Perfecto C. Ramos managed the day-to-day operations of the Leonard Security Agency. In this capacity, he made daily work assignments, supervised the work of complainants and

acted as an agent of the agency.

The complainants argued that Perfecto Ramos's involvement in the business made him a "de-facto" employer in this case.

Perfecto Ramos is a nonresident worker who was deported from the CNMI in 2002. He was barred from re-entering the CNMI for five years.

In his order, Cody pointed out that as many of the claims in the complaint related to events that occurred two to four years before the filing of the complaint, a central legal issue in this case is whether these claims are barred by the applicable statute of limitations.

Cody said the case involves various labor claims against respondents that happened over a period ranging from 1999 through 2003.



Cody

Complainants' claims are based on the Nonresident Workers Act and the CNMI Minimum Wage and Hour Act.

Under those provisions, Cody said, the law states that: "Every action shall

be forever barred unless commenced six months after the cause of action accrued, except that a cause of action arising out of willful violation may be commenced within one year after the cause of ac-

tion accrued."

"The facts of this case do not justify any 'tolling' even under complainants' interpretation of that term, because Leonard Ramos continued making regular visits to Saipan over a prolonged period during much of the time covered by this complaint," Cody said.

Complainants testified that Leonard Ramos visited Saipan from Guam nearly every weekend in 1999, and continued to visit the business in successive years, albeit less frequently.

Given such contacts, Cody said, complainants had ample time and opportunity to file a labor case and to serve it personally upon Leonard Ramos during

the period from 1999 to 2003.

"The record establishes that complainants delayed the filing of these labor claims for several years, even as they were renewing their employment in successive years," he said.

The three complainants, Cody said, failed to show that the delay on their part in filing a claim in 1999, 2000, 2001, or 2002, was reasonable.

"They had sufficient time and opportunity to file a labor complaint, yet failed to do so," he said.

He said the applicable period of this complaint is from Aug. 25, 2002, until Aug. 25, 2003.

"As a result, most of the claims for reimbursement of expenses and unpaid wages, which arose prior to Aug. 25, 2002, are time-barred," he said.

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Maratita is crowned 2009 Miss Marianas

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A fresh graduate of Saipan Southern High School reaped most of the special awards on her way to winning the crown in the 2009 Miss Marianas Universe pageant, besting four other contestants during coronation night on Saturday at Palms Resort Saipan.

Sorene A. Maratita brought home fabulous prizes including \$1,000 cash and \$1,000 scholarship from the organizing Stellar Marianas, one year use of a brand new car from Triple J Motors, a cell phone from PTI, gift certificates and one-year supplies of other products.

More importantly, this 18-year-old fan of supermodel Tyra Banks gave herself a once-in-a-lifetime chance to represent the CNMI both in the 2009 Miss Universe Pageant and Miss International Pageant—all-expense paid courtesy of Northwest Airlines.

Maratita won three of the six special awards—Miss Photogenic, Stellar Award and Best in National Costume.

Winona Chance Camacho, 17, was adjudged the first runner-up after taking two specials awards: best in swimsuit and best in evening gown.

The other special award, Miss Congeniality, went to 18-year old NMC student Leovita Q. Cabrera.

Another NMC student Alexandra A. Silva, 18, and Rota High graduate Bob-

bie Jean DLC. Taisacan, 17, were the two other contestants.

Maratita said she's extremely happy and that her strong personality may have given her the edge over the other contestants.

It was her first time to join a pageant. She said she just wanted to experience it.

"This is so spontaneous and out of the ordinary," said Maratita, whose ultimate goal in life is to join the U.S. Air Force with a focus on Communications. She also wants to take up a col-

lege degree and become the first home-grown physical therapist.

Before all that, she plans to first savor her moment of triumph, saying she looks forward to competing in the upcoming Miss Universe and Miss International pageants.

The 49th Miss International pageant will take place on July 24-25 next year in Chicago, Illinois, while the 58th Miss Universe beauty pageant might be held in Croatia on June 2009.

"I wish her the best of luck. She's



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Alexandra A. Silva, Winona Chance Camacho (runner-up, best in swimwear, best in gown), Sorene A. Maratita (Miss Marianas Universe 2008, Miss Photogenic, Stellar Award, Best In National Costume), Bobbie Jean DLC. Taisacan, and Leovita Q. Cabrera (Miss Congeniality).

INDIA

From Page 1

and turn its postcard-perfect icons into battlefields until security forces ended one of the deadliest attacks in India's history.

A previously unknown Muslim group called Deccan Mujahideen—a name suggesting origins inside India—has claimed responsibility for the attacks that killed more than 170 people. But Indian officials said the sole surviving gunman, now in custody, was from Pakistan and voiced suspicions of their neighbor.

Pakistan denied it was involved and demanded evidence.

■■■

MUMBAI, India (AP)—India's top security official offered his resignation Sunday, a senior aide said, as the government struggled under

growing accusations of security failures following the Mumbai attacks that left at least 174 people dead.

Home Minister Shivraj Patil submitted his resignation letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh but has not received a response, aide R.K. Kumar said.

Patil has become highly unpopular during a long series of terror attacks and his ouster has long been predicted in political circles.

"Our Politicians Fiddle as Innocents Die," read a headline Sunday in the Times of India newspaper, part of a growing chorus of criticism.

■■■

The massacre has raised fears among U.S. officials about a possible surge in violence between Pakistan and India—the nuclear-armed rivals have fought three wars against each other, two over the disputed region of Kashmir.

India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called a rare meeting of leaders from the country's main political parties to discuss the situation Sunday.

Orange flames and dark smoke engulfed the luxury Taj Mahal hotel after dawn Saturday as Indian forces killed the last three militants in a blaze of grenades and gunfire. Hours after the firefight, parts of the landmark hotel were in shambles, its corner facade charred black and a red carpet leading to double doors littered with broken glass.

After the final siege, adoring crowds surrounded six buses carrying weary, unshaven commandos dressed in black fatigues, shaking their hands and giving them flowers. One of the commandos said he had been awake for nearly 60 hours since the assault began Wednesday. Another sat sipping a bottle of water and holding a pink rose.

parked outside the house.

She said they saw a car had hit the concrete fence and that a police car arrived shortly.

Sgt. Ogumoro said one of the victims was wearing a seatbelt.

"It was a very serious accident. The car did not overturn, but it got mangled a little bit," he said.

Ogumoro said the husband is going to survive.

The traffic commander advised motorists to drive responsibly this holiday season.

"We want motorists to be vigilant in reporting and calling 911 if they see cars weaving all over the road so that officers can proceed to that location and stop that vehicle before [the passengers] hurt themselves or hurt others," he said.

On Nov. 16, three persons died and one was seriously injured when a car slammed into a power pole in front of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe.

great and easy to get along," Miss Congeniality Leovita Cabrera said of Maratita.

Runner-up Winona Chance Camacho, who also attended Saipan Southern High, said she and Maratita are very close to each other.

"I'm so proud of her. I feel like I'm also the winner," Camacho said.

As the newly crowned Miss Marianas, Maratita's main objective is to promote the importance of healthy eating habits as well as diet and exercise among the youth.

Saturday's judges were Lannie Walker of KSPN, Michelle Lin of Independent Boutique, 1997 Miss NMI International Marites Acosta-Yumul, Jeannie Mafnas of NMHC, CNMI Public Defender Adam Hardwick and Palms Resort president Hiroyuki Saito.

Stellar Marianas, a pageant and talent non-profit group, said it is temporarily suspending the holding of the event because of the current crisis.

The coronation night was co-emceed by former Miss Marianas Cheryl Brel Cabrera and Gabriel Camacho White.

ERRATUM

In the story "Symposium highlights life in pre-war NMI, Palau" that was published in the Nov. 28 edition of the *Saipan Tribune*, one of the photo captions incorrectly identified the PSS Commissioner of Education as Dr. Rita Inos. The correct name should have been Dr. Rita Sablan.

HOMELAND

From Page 1

ment and immigration in the CNMI.

"In sections 105 and 503 of the Covenant, the people of the CNMI expressly agreed that the U.S. Congress has the authority to extend U.S. immigration laws to the CNMI. Congress exercised this authority by enacting the CNRA," DHS states under the background section.

U.S. immigration laws must apply in the CNMI beginning June 1, 2009, unless the Secretary of Homeland Security decides to delay the start of the transition period, according to the webpage. The transition period cannot be delayed more than 180 days.

After June 1, 2009, U.S. immigration law will apply, with one exception, the webpage states. During the transition period, people present in the CNMI will not be able to seek permanent resident status in the CNMI after one year as an asylee, a benefit under section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

"An alien present in the CNMI will, however, be able to request withholding of removal based on a claim of protection from persecution or torture and the claim will be heard by an immigration judge or other authorized official under U.S. law," according to the transition information.

The Department of Homeland Security currently does not have an immigration presence in the CNMI and will not assume responsibility until the start of the transition period.

In early 2009, though, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services plans to open an Application Support Center. The Center will provide services to applicants who currently

qualify for permanent resident status as an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen. USCIS will provide more information on the Center when an opening date is determined.

The webpage, which was last updated Nov. 21, says the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program and the CNMI-only investor visa regulations currently are under development.

Last week, The U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued a semiannual regulatory plan stating visitors from China and Russia "cannot, at this time, seek admission under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program due to security concerns."

In a joint statement, the Fitial administration, the Legislature and the Marianas Integrated Immigration Task Force noted that the regulatory plan, which appears on the federal government's www.regulations.gov website, is an abstract and not the final regulation.

"However, if this is an insight into the regulation, we have reason to be gravely concerned," the local government and business leaders said. "Unless China and Russia are officially included in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program—which is what is being considered in these regulations—the CNMI economy will be damaged. Chinese and Russian tourists are of crucial importance to the islands' economy."

Guam Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo has been quoted as saying Guam and CNMI officials are working with federal officials to allow Russian and Chinese visitors to participate in the visa waiver program, and if not with a full visa waiver, possibly with an expedited process that would still allow visitors to meet the necessary security requirements.

LABOR

From Page 1

and Chinese. The notice, however, also includes the name of a Filipino worker who died early this year.

Labor said that today is the first publication of the notice; the department will publish it again on Dec. 8, 2008.

According to Labor's public notice, the 624 persons have overstayed the permission granted them upon their entry to the CNMI for employment purposes.

Labor advised those people on the list to depart the CNMI immediately.

"Persons who depart the Commonwealth voluntarily are eligible to return; those who are deported are not eligible

to return," Labor said.

Labor pointed out that permissions granted upon entry may have been extended or the entry status may have been changed under a number of different provisions of Commonwealth law, "but all extensions and changes must be documented and the applicable fees paid."

Workers whose names are on the overstayers list but have a valid immigration status that allows them to be in the CNMI are urged to report to the Labor Director's executive secretary, Evelyn Sablan, before Dec. 29, 2008, to correct the records.

The overstayers report included Roderick A. Alegre, once a member of CNMI Men's National Team, who died during a basketball game at Ada Gym on Feb. 13, 2008.

WOMAN

From Page 1

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that a Korean woman died in the accident.

Tudela said alcohol and speed were factors in the crash. He said they will release more information about the accident today, Monday.

The Korean victim is the fourth traffic fatality in two weeks on Saipan and the ninth fatality in vehicular accidents this year in the CNMI.

Traffic Commander Sgt. Paul Ogumoro said the victims are a Korean couple and that the fatality was the passenger of the vehicle.

Ogumoro said they are temporarily withholding the names of the victims because they were still trying to notify the victims' next of kin as of last night.

Ogumoro said the fatality, a 40-year-old woman, was declared dead on ar-

rival by a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center that same night.

He said DPS received the report about the accident Saturday at 10:10pm.

Initial investigation showed that the couple was in a four-door sedan heading north along Beach Road when it swerved shortly after reaching the corner of Teer Drive.

The car ran off the roadway and rammed the metal traffic sign located near the Mobil Gas Station.

After toppling the traffic sign, the car then slammed into the concrete fence of a residential compound owned by Lupe Manglona.

The strong impact caused a big hole on the concrete fence. The car ended up facing south after striking the wall.

A resident in the compound told *Saipan Tribune* that they were inside the house when they heard a loud crash.

The resident said they immediately checked outside because they thought a vehicle had struck their car, which was

Packages ready for shipment to NMI soldiers

More than 200 packages yesterday were boxed and are ready to be shipped off to military men and women around the world as part of Operation CNMI Home Front Support.

Approximately 125 family members, on-island military personnel and community members were on hand at the Army Reserve Center to prepare the boxes so they could be shipped off today, in order to reach the soldiers by Christmas.

"Each letter from home goes along way to boost their morale. It lifts up their spirit," said Family Readiness Group leader Rita Chargualaf, whose

husband is currently serving abroad as part of the Echo Company. Chargualaf, who sends a package to her husband every week, said he'd often send requests for items made from home.

"I think it's always nice when the community comes together for the soldiers," she said. "It's a difficult time for them there."

Getting a little something from home goes a long way for a soldier, said Tonya Mesa, alternate leader for the Family Readiness Group.

"Anything to keep that little bit of sanity," she said.

There were three different types of boxes shipped, de-

pending on where the soldier is serving. Family and community members submitted the names and contact information for the deployed soldiers.

Red Cross's Kennedy Benjamin said they brainstormed what items soldiers would want and need the most while away from home.

Community members, businesses and local organizations donated items for the packages. Some of the items included: SPAM and other canned goods; hygiene kits; cookies; mangoes; and newspapers and magazines. Students also submitted letters and drawings to the soldiers, while the local knitting club

made beanie caps.

The program was conceived

by the Troops-to-Teachers program, which teamed up with

MCV and the American Red Cross. *(Kristi Eaton)*

Woman arrested for allegedly selling car twice

A woman was arrested for allegedly selling a car twice to two different buyers on Tinian.

Julita E. Santos, 55, was arrested for theft by deception. A \$25,000 cash bail was initially imposed for her temporary release, but the Superior Court allowed her last week to post a \$100 cash bail and \$900 in unsecured bond.

Detective Melvin I. Monkeya stated in his report that Anwar Narul had filed a complaint against Santos at the Tinian Department of Public Safety on

Oct. 8, 2008.

According to the complainant, on Oct. 1, 2008, Santos went to the Mosque in Subdivision, saying she was selling her Toyota Camry for \$5,000.

Narul asked her to drop the price to \$3,000 but Santos refused and left.

Later that day, Narul received a call from a friend that Santos was waiting for him as she was willing to sell the car for \$3,000.

After test-driving the car,

Narul handed over \$2,950 in the presence of a witness to Santos, who gave him a \$50 discount due to an engine problem.

Inexplicably, the defendant later gave Narul a letter stating that if he could not come up with \$2,550 on that day, she would take the car back.

That same day, Santos allegedly took the car using a spare key.

On Nov. 14, 2008, Santos allegedly sold the car again to Huang Shung Corp. for \$3,000. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Study: NMI suffers from same conditions as LDCs

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although the CNMI is not at the same economic level as some of the least developed countries, it suffers from many of the same conditions that small island states endure around the world,

according to a recently released economic report.

"U.S. territories are generally higher in per capita income than LDCs (least developed countries) but substantially lower than the U.S. and other developed countries," according to the report, Economic Impact of Federal

Laws on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The report, commissioned by the Officer of the Governor with a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs, says the United Nations has gone far in developing programs and policies to aid least developed countries (LDCs). LDCs

are defined as low income; low gross national income per capita (under \$750); human resource weakness; and economic vulnerability. According to the report, the CNMI's income per capita was \$12,839 in 2000.

The United Nations, according to the report, has created

special programs for LDCs, including financing from bilateral, regional and multilateral donors and financial institutions; including grants and loans at very favorable terms; benefits in the multilateral trading system in the form of special concessions under several agreements in the World Trade Organization and preferential market access by several trading partners; and technical assistances.

"While the CNMI would not be considered to be at the economic level of an LDC, it suffers from many of the same conditions that smaller island states endure across the globe," the report states. "Furthermore, many LDCs could be regarded as being in protracted states of

economic depression. Therefore, UN experience and that of other international development organizations could be very valuable to the U.S. in dealing with its own territories."

The UN also has developed the small island developing states (SIDS), which recognizes specific problems for developing states.

These programs, the report notes, show there is precedent for special consideration, programs or policies for the development of small island states.

"In fact the U.S. Government Accountability Office has advocated stronger and more coordinated federal programs for U.S. territories for many years," the report states.

Western governors to Obama: Invest billions in clean energy

Governors from Western states, including the Northern Mariana Islands, have issued a four-page letter to President-elect Barack Obama calling for long-term commitment to clean energy in the U.S.

The letter came about after Obama, in a videogram sent to participants of a climate change summit organized by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last week, vowed: "When I am president, any governor who is willing to promote clean energy will have an ally in the White House."

While the governor's letter is not a direct reply to Obama's video (drafts have been in the works since June, according to Western Governors' Association spokesperson Karen Deike), the letter amounts to a collective "Yes We're Willing" from the states' leadership.

Signed by leaders of the Western Governors' Association, which represents governors from 19 states, plus Guam,

American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands, the letter includes calls for tens of billions of dollars in annual investment in clean energy and vehicle technologies, assistance for industries transitioning to renewable fuels and more efficient technologies, and rewards for utilities that reduce customers' energy usage.

The governors also suggests making "maximum use" of market-based mechanisms for slashing emissions, and encouraging the private sector to invest at least as much as the federal government into energy technologies. The governors don't specify a regulatory scheme for carbon emissions, but they are clear on how revenue from something like a carbon tax should be spent. "Revenue raised should support the energy policy principles in this letter," the governors write, "and not be used as a means of sustaining or expanding general governmental operations." (*earth2tech*)



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FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MOWING, TRIMMING AND CLEANING OF PROPERTY GROUNDS And PERIMETER FENCE AND DITCH GRASS CUTTING

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed cost proposals for (A) Mowing of grass, trimming of flowers, bushes and trees and cleaning of the airport grounds and (B) Perimeter Fence and Ditch Grass Cutting. The sealed cost proposals in duplicates are due by **4:30 p.m., Friday, December 19, 2008** at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The scope of work and contract documents shall be ready for pick up at the above said office by Monday, December 1, 2008.

Proposers may submit for both Part A and Part B, or proposers may submit for only one part, either A or B if desired. Part A is the first project and is labeled "SIA Mowing, Trimming and Cleaning of Property Grounds." Part B is the second project and is labeled "SIA Perimeter Fence and Ditch Grass Cutting."

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 am on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at the CPA Airport Conference. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory to be considered for the services.

Please make arrangements with the Airport Manager at telephone number 664-3500 for a site visit to better understand the scope of work and to identify the areas depicted on the sketch.

Along with your proposal, the submission of insurance coverage, company past performance, experience, a list of equipment and most recent financial statement reviewed by a Certified Public Accountant, are required to completely determine the company's capability to perform the work. The successful proposer shall enter into an agreement with CPA for a one-year term which is renewable thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date for another year or as determined by CPA. The renewal of agreement shall be contingent upon CPA's satisfaction of the company's performance and the availability of funding.

CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if in its sole decision to do so, is in its best interest.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director

Date: November 26, 2008



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

SOLICITATION FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), a public corporation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, hereby solicits proposals to lease and/or develop the following properties:

1. Lot No. 062 E 03; containing an area of approximately 1,725 square meters; two butler-type buildings, situated at the Saipan Seaport.
2. Lot No. 090 E 02; containing an area of approximately 1,958 square meters; adjacent to FAS Moving; situated at the Saipan Seaport.
3. Lot No. 193 E 05; containing an area of approximately 6,455 square meters; North Sea Plane Ramp; Saipan Seaport.
4. Lot No. 193 E 06; containing an area of approximately 5,163 square meters; North Sea Plane Ramp; Saipan Seaport.
5. Lot No. 066 E 01; containing an area of approximately 1,371 square meters; North Sea Plane Ramp; Saipan Seaport.

Interested parties may obtain a Proposal Package from the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. A fee of \$35.00 shall be charged for each copy of the proposal package. Checks should be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Proposal Package must be submitted to the Office of the Executive Director between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on or before December 12, 2008.

For more information, contact the Manager, Port of Saipan at 664-3550.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director

Date: November 24, 2008



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

CPA Board of Directors

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the CPA Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2008, 9:00 a.m. at the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda, for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
- II. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- III. SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
 1. Comptroller Position
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/S/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors

November 28, 2008

Customers may now try out PTI phones before purchase



Customers try out PTI's wireless handsets, which have been activated to allow customers a chance to "test-drive" the units before buying them.

PTI

Similar to test driving a new car before actually purchasing one, PTI has now activated all their wireless handsets on the retractable display counters in both customer service centers in Chalan Laulau and at the Wireless Express Center in Garapan.

Customers now have the opportunity to test out the latest wireless units and compare the many features of each cell phone before actually purchasing a unit. Each phone has been activated to provide the customer with a hands-on, unlimited access while they shop around for a new phone.

According to Darrell Fair, PTI's regional customer service manager, "Customers will create their own product review as they are now able to assess the phones and sample the multimedia features, as well as, view camera snapshots, listen to a variety of ringtones, surf the Internet, even text using a Qwerty keyboard on a smart-

phone and test PTI's high speed EV-DO experience."

"At PTI we want our customers to be satisfied with their purchasing experience and this is one way where our customers can evaluate our wireless products and make their own conclusion as to which phone best suits their needs," says Kathryn Barry, regional marketing manager for PTI.

"Compare camera quality with our Sanyo Katana and the Motorola RAZR V3i or experience EV-DO and stream video on YouTube with the Motorola Q9c," Fair added.

"One can also check out the MP3 player on both the Samsung Juke or the Nokia 6085. Whatever your phone preference may be, customers are invited to come to PTI and see for yourself why PTI is the CNMI's wireless leader," added Barry.

For more information about PTI's products and services, log on to www.pticom.com or call 682-4PTI. (PR)

Eight Pacific nations screen for chlamydia

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Eight Pacific Island countries and territories are joining a program to screen for and treat the sexually transmitted infection chlamydia.

Tonga, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Tuvalu join a program recently piloted in the Cook Islands, Nauru and Solomon Islands.

Chlamydia is a common STI in the region, particularly among young people, with up to 20 percent of people aged 15-30 possibly infected.

The STI Advisor for the Sec-

retariat of the Pacific Community, Dr Anna McNulty, says chlamydia can lead to infertility and infection of babies during delivery, but the disease shows few symptoms.

"The countries are asked to focus testing on the highest risk populations, or the people most likely to have chlamydia or gonorrhea. And from our pilot evaluation, they've been effective in doing that. The program runs for five years, so it's not just a short-term project which often Pacific Island countries find frustrating if even funding for something is only short term."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUT-OUT

Happy 31st birthday to Manny Tenorio. Thinking of you on your very special day, we all just wanted to wish you the best on your important day and may you have many more great birthdays to come. From your family and friends, most especially from Cindy.

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Despite low turnout, kids enjoy Hafa Day

Eight-year old Sonia Rabauliman of Oleai Elementary School was not only happy to share the experiences she had. The outspoken 2nd Grade student also had a fitting message for the day's fun and activities.

"I learned many things today. We must eat good food to stay healthy," she said while participating in the second annual Hafa Day Health Awareness and Fitness Activities at the Garapan Central Park last Friday.

Both Rabauliman and 6-year old Cassidy Jade Aaron said they joined the mini soccer fun but liked the shark attack game just like the other kids who showed up.

George Cruz, chair of the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition that organized the event,

said the turnout was very disappointing because just half the number of students that participated last year (125) showed up this time.

"We only had about 50 to 60 today," Cruz said, despite the invitations that were sent to various schools on Saipan.

Other agencies involved were Marianas Health Services, Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, Community Guidance Center, Ayuda Network, Department of Public Safety and Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc.

Part of the observance of Diabetes Month, the five-hour event aimed to show students, their parents and teachers differ-

ent ways to stay active, with a focus on prevention rather than intervention.

The students ranged in ages from 4 to 17.

Cruz stressed the need for people to stay active while they are young because younger people tend to recover faster from

A week of live fire training at FDM

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire training on the island Farallon de Mendenilla on Dec. 1-5, 2008, from 3pm to 12am.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla training area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency

common sickness like flu.

For 17-year old Samantha Calvo of Marianas High School, she is just enjoying the fun of it.

"We are doing different games. It's a hard thing but it is still fun. I learned about teamwork and that fitness is important," she said. (Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)

Management Office is advising the public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, AND VHF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 1, 1998

Federal funds emerge for cash-starved PSS

The Public School System is recipient of a \$65,000 in grant that will fund the formulation of education reforms to boost learning, and a team from the Hawaii-based Pacific Resources for Education and Learning is helping out push the project through. The project, called Comprehensive School Reform, is required to be based on models that have been proven successful. It focuses away from isolated projects and on a campus-wide campaign. Meanwhile, education officials were told yesterday that PSS may dip into education funds earmarked for some specialized programs and for what is known in the U.S. as migrant education.

CDA defends CUC on power rates

Commonwealth Development Authority Board Chairman Juan S. Tenorio said yesterday utility rates in the CNMI are reasonable, debunking claims by the business sector that they were way too high. He said private business owners ought to realize that rates have not been adjusted for many years despite fluctuations in prices of fuel in the world markets. Tenorio said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is subsidizing at between \$3 million to \$4 million annually for sewer and water services.

December 1, 1999

Budget deliberation resumes

The House Ways and Means Committee resumed yesterday its deliberation on the FY 2000 budget package, more than two months after it deferred passage of the proposal due to disagreement on how to divide the shrinking cash resources of the government. The panel hopes to complete the task by middle of this month before the Legislature goes into sine die and after members iron out differences, such as the level of appropriation to be given to each department or agency. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio submitted in April a \$206 million spending level, representing a 2 percent drop from the revised budget for FY 1999.

Japanese firm named in racketeering case

Racketeering charges were filed against two Japanese nationals and a Japanese firm for alleged fraud and embezzlement of funds in connection with the development of Coral Ocean Point, a hotel and golf course in the southern part of Saipan. Named respondents in the civil suit filed by lawyer James Grizzard based on the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act were Kiyoshige Terada, chairman of the board of directors; Minoru Imai, president; and Japanese firm Hyakumata Kabushiki Kaisha. According to the complaint, Mr. Terada, Mr. Grizzard and Mr. Imai established Suwaso Inc. in 1985 for the development of COP. Mr. Grizzard owns 10 percent of the shares of the company.

December 1, 2000

Democrats hold primary

Democrats are appealing to more than 12,000 voters on Saipan to go out and vote in the open primary tomorrow to decide who will be the party's official candidate to the mayoralty election next year on the island. Rep. Antonio Muna Camacho and former Rep. Juan Borja Tudela are seeking its endorsement to run for Saipan mayor in the November 2001 polls. This is the first time ever that Democrats are conducting a primary ahead of an election, according to party chair, former Gov. Carlos S. Camacho.

Candidates appeal for support

The two candidates in tomorrow's primary have asked support from the people to give them the mandate to address the critical needs on Saipan. "We've been working hard," said Rep. Antonio M. Camacho in a separate interview yesterday. "People may not come out and vote because this is just a primary, but we are asking them to exercise their right." He expressed confidence of winning the two-way race, citing his platform of helping the people of Saipan as his main priority once elected into office.

December 1, 2002

NMI gears up for homeland security

Local agencies are gearing up for the gradual implementation of the Homeland Security Act, with the Emergency Management Office and the Department of Public Health-among others-leading the local preparedness efforts. Gov. Juan N. Babauta said Friday that the EMO is in the process of procuring hazardous material suits and respirators, while the health department has already begun emergency response preparations.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Second Floor Afetria Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

OVERSTAYERS REPORT

Monday, December 1, 2008, first publication

Monday, December 8, 2008, second publication

Notice is hereby given that, according to the records maintained by the Commonwealth as of November 25, 2008, the following persons have overstayed the permission granted upon their entry to the Commonwealth for employment purposes. Persons in an overstayer status are required to depart the Commonwealth immediately. Persons who depart the Commonwealth voluntarily are eligible to return; those who are deported are not eligible to return.

Permissions granted upon entry may have been extended or the entry status may be changed under a number of different provisions of the Commonwealth law, but all extensions and changes must be documented and the applicable fees paid. If the necessary applications and supporting document have not been correctly completed, filed, or recorded, a name may appear in overstayer status although an extension may have been granted upon completion or recording of the necessary documentation.

If your name is on the list set out below and you have or should have a current status allowing you to be in the Commonwealth, please report to Evelyn Sablan, Executive Secretary to the Director of Labor, second floor, Afetria Square Building, San Antonio, Saipan, before December 29, 2008, to correct the records.

Name	LIDS No.	Name	LIDS No.	Name	LIDS No.	Name	LIDS No.	Name	LIDS No.	Name	LIDS No.
ABALOS, VERONICA RULLODA	285888	DEL BARRIO, MARK ANTHONY ROXAS	205429	JIN, YINGJI	204499	NERIZON, MARY JEAN MEJIA	293673	SHEN, CHUNYAN	282622	XIE, LING YUN	281071
ABCEDE, RUBEN D.	101093	DEL CASTILLO, JENNIFER MAYON	293452	JIN, YINGLAN	287661	NI, ZHONGJUAN	283696	SHENG, XIAOER	282682	XIE, MEI	286693
ADAUAG, RAMELYN L	292468	DELA CRUZ, ARNALDO ENRIQUEZ	205626	JIN, YUNZHE	292006	NIBOT, NARCISO CAMBA	201356	SHERPINI, PASANG	299453	XIE, SUQIN	286697
ADVERSALO, JAMES PASION	296903	DELA CRUZ, ESTRELLA NUESCA	289991	JIN, ZHENGANAN	289686	NOICHANA, WASANA	288765	SHI, CANGBEN	291034	XIE, XIUYING	291470
AGBULOS, REYNALDO SINANGOTE	282922	DELA ROSA, ROSALIE JAYAWON	299009	JIN, ZHENZI	281597	NORITA, ELOISA IGNACIO	286434	SHI, YOUQIN	291045	XIE, YUMEI	289580
AGNAPAN, NATIVIDAD POLIC-EW	294020	DELOS SANTOS, AGERICO M	301985	JUNG, IN-SOOK	104931	ORINGO, YOLANDA ROQUE	297432	SHIDA, YASUE	310385	XIN, ZHIMING	286927
AIBA, TSUYOSHI	303231	DELOS SANTOS, HENRY GARBO	280515	KASHIRSKAYA, NATALIA	203462	ORTEGA, CHRISTOPHER Z	180429	SHU, HONG	284126	XING, YUXIA	287607
ALBACITE, IMMEE BUCOG	296388	DELVO, MAURECIO P	302488	KHEMTHONG, NOPPAMAS	203939	ORTIZ, REYNALDO BANASCA	310451	SIAPNO, VANESSA SURATOS	287704	XIONG, HAIYAN	284157
ALBOROTO, ROSELLE G	280779	DENG, YINGXIA	203025	KHLADKHLAEW, NONGNIT	203936	PABLO JR., WAYAN BATONG	283791	SILE, SUPHAWAN	291209	XU, BAOLIN	283299
ALCORIZA, WILFREDO E.	282414	DIGMAYO, LOURDES ANTONIO	299965	KIM, YOUNG CHEON	292650	PADULLA, FEDICIL YU	283314	SILVESTRE, IMELDA IRAL	295686	XU, CHUN HUA	204816
ALEGRE, RODERICK A	134865	DINGSON, FERDINAND LUBIANO	282112	KISHIMOTO, HIROSHI	295009	PAENGWONG, CHUCHAT	291207	SIVAPRAPA, SOMKIAT	288956	XU, FEIFEI	296968
ALONSABE, BEN R	281321	DOCTOLERO, ADELA CASTILLO	285833	KWON, TAEYWON	311797	PAENPAT, WANDEE	289095	SOLIS, MELINDA ALMO	292172	XU, GUOHUA	289090
AN, QINGLIN	205220	DONG, LI	297520	LACSON, ROSALIE ISIP	283256	PAGKALIWANGAN, JENNET M	158477	SONG, GUOPING	297672	XU, HONG WEI	310688
AN, XIANLAN	285632	DONG, MINGHUA	286646	LACTAO, JACQUELENE AGGABAO	293451	PAKAYA, NOONIAM	289239	SONG, XIAOJIN	286702	XU, HONGZHEN	286696
AQUINO, BENJAMIN L	113866	DONG, XIUPING	282802	LEE, JUNG JA	171160	PALACI, CHERYL CARBONEL	204949	SONG, YANG	286580	XU, MINXIANG	296021
ARCON, DAISY HERMOSO	300782	DONG, YUEHONG	283742	LEE, JUSUN	292129	PALENTINOS, EVELINA PATRON	288375	SONG, YUPING	298505	XU, SHANNU	290425
ARONES, JUDITH CUARTERO	298334	DUNGO, LORNA CANONO	303097	LEON GUERRERO, MARECHEL O.	283825	PAMINTUAN, REMIGIO M	141731	SORIANO, EDWIN DIAZ	300413	XU, SHEN MIN	200783
ASAMI, KINUYO	302925	DUQUILLA, CLARITA	153439	LI, LI	298785	PAMITTAN, RICO C	146514	SORIANO, RHIZA SALONGA	298449	XU, SHOUDONG	280666
ASUNCION, MIMA NACENO	288063	EVANGELISTA, GRACE CONCEPCION	205836	LI, CHENGLIANG	292995	PANGAM, DUANGCHAI	288796	SOTTO, VIVEAN DONGERAS	291902	XU, SHUZHEN	292645
AUMENTADO, ROY COMBALICER	205404	FABROS, MARITES ENTREDICHO	203230	LI, CHENGXUAN	294489	PARIAL, ALVIN ASHER SEVILLA	295413	SRICHAN, BUNMA	288762	XU, WULONG	284935
BACAY JR, RENATO CORTEZ	294301	FANG, HUI	282560	LI, CHUNXI	296296	PARK, MIN SU	183281	SRIDEE, DUEANPHEN	288977	XU, XIN	284240
BAI, YUNLONG	286827	FANG, LIPING	287850	LI, FAYAN	291431	PATILLAS, ROMEL RIVERAL	297859	SRIMSUAN, NUTCHARI	288808	XU, XIUQIN	297994
BAJAMONDE, JACQUELINE D	296114	FANG, RONG	204902	LI, FENGYING	291145	PATIO, DONALD RAMOS	204879	SRINAMUEANG, KAMOL	302711	XU, YAN	200754
BALDOMERO, SHIRLEY D.	293714	FASONILAO, MARITES BAGUNA	203685	LI, FUSHAN	287480	PAUDEL, BISHNU DEVI	283327	SU, HAI YAN	284495	XU, YINHUA	295286
BALLESTERO, PETRONILO RETUYAN	293078	FAUSTINO, ROLANDO DOROJA	281319	LI, HAIYAN	118900	PEI, SONGHE	295816	SU, HONG	286177	XUE, HUIYUN	300656
BANZAI, SATOSHI	284546	FERNANDEZ, JEFFRY MANARANG	301734	LI, HU	290447	PENG, CHUNMING	290486	SU, SHIXIA	289301	XUE, WEINA	296307
BAO, JIEJUAN	284605	FERNANDEZ, MARISSA DE VERA	204330	LI, HUIQIN	203890	PENG, CHUNXIU	291623	SU, YUCONG	153648	YAN, BIAN	283654
BAO, WEIHONG	302537	FUKUDA, MAYUMI	284222	LI, JINHUA	281701	PENG, SIQIN	296983	SUMAMAN, RATSAMEE	288769	YAN, WANG	286736
BAO, XIAOHONG	280368	FULE JR, BENJAMIN GINO	294440	LI, JUN	284757	PENG, WEI	284235	SUMAT, RONALDO V	105064	YANG, HONG JIU	282942
BARBUCO, BERNARDINO SAPIDA	311000	FUNTANAR, ARCELI LESACA	296772	LI, KUNSHOU	311944	PEREZ, FLORA SUMAGUE	289688	SUN, LILI	291655	YANG, JINHUAN	301598
BASANGAN, MARIBETH LABRADOR	294959	GABADADZE, ELENA IGOREVNA	287705	LI, LIANG	285559	PERPAS, FREDDIE OMPOC	283410	SUN, MAOJIN	287889	YANG, MEIFANG	291078
BAT-ERDENE, BADAMDOLGOR	310741	GALANG, ELIZABETH NAPO	302389	LI, LIANJUN	299349	PHADEE, CHANTHI	288774	SUN, MIN	282190	YANG, QINHUA	296878
BATJARGAL, NASANJARGAL	312690	GAN, LINGMEI	204480	LI, MINGHUA	296620	PHAENSATHAN, CHIT	288943	SUN, MINFEI	291165	YANG, TIANRONG	287778
BAUTISTA, ROSE MARIE TINGSON	204372	GAO, FU JUN	204278	LI, MINGXIU	295481	PHANPHUN, PHADUNGSRI	288763	SUN, QIAOFENG	291352	YANG, WEN QING	292505
BELGICA, EDILBERTO OCHONA	292348	GAO, JING	203103	LI, RONGRUEI	299168	PHAYAKMAT, CHAMLONG	288805	SUNSAI, SAMAN	289103	YANG, YINSONG	292242
BESA, JACQUELINE QUIAMBAO	281786	GAO, PEIHUA	203417	LI, SONGFAN	297509	PHETLAM, ANULAK	289074	SUSON, DANILLO MALUYA	286641	YAO, FENGYING	288529
BEZA, JOEVE DUMLAO	285885	GAO, YING	290259	LI, YANG	284884	PHIASA, CHAEMCHAN	289112	SUTJAI, UTHAI	288770	YAO, MIN	202813
BINUYA, ELMER PANGELINAN	204906	GARCIA, ARTEMIO ADSUARA	280995	LI, YUN QIANG	288746	PHIMBUN, ONCHAN	288810	SUWANMANEE, SUNAN	289081	YE, SANYUAN	289135
BLANKER, ALMA TORMES	280054	GARCIA, BERNARDO B.	107762	LI, YUXUE	291172	PHINIJ, THIDARAT	288799	TACHUNG, WARAPORN	289105	YIN, GUOLIAN	281799
BOGNOT, DENNIS PASCUAL	293763	GARCIA, JESUS LOCQUIAO	284054	LI, ZHIXIAN	291750	PHIWPONG, BANJONG	291213	TAGAB, JELMA MATURAN	288112	YIN, SUHUA	203292
BORDON, CATHERINE ACUNA	101371	GASPAR, HELEN ROSARIO	298840	LI, ZONGZHI	201688	PHUACHOO, SUPHAP	289097	TAI, MEISHAN	205773	YIN, WEILI	291478
BORJA, RAYMOND LEONIDES S	294359	GE, SHAOHONG	203405	LIAN, SHENG	294352	PIANNARATSADORN, BOONTIANG	288795	TAMANG, JOJIT M	285190	YIN, XIAOFANG	283729
BUKU, MA VICTORIA DELA CRUZ	147371	GENG, CUILAN	288905	LIANG, WANZHEN	289201	PIAO, CHENGHU	291356	TAMONDONG, ALEX ESTIGOY	284446	YONYING, WIRAT	289240
BUNYI III, JUAN BANEZ	280735	GENG, SHUQIN	204085	LIAO, WEIHUA	152143	PIAO, JIZHU	290585	TANG, HONGMIN	281807	YOTHAILIAM, SANGWIAN	288775
BUSALANAN, LYDIA ORAPA	302392	GENG, YANHUI	291195	LICTAOA, LYDIA DAYAG	296748	PIAO, TIANRI	203427	TARCA, ANTHONY M	105794	YOTHAILIAM, SOMPHAN	288754
BUSTILLOS, DANILLO ANCHETA	312068	GIANAN, JONEL EMPERADO	288073	LILI, WANG	282656	PINGOL, RODOLFO PEREZ	282099	TESORO, DANTE PRESENTACION	283453	YOTYOM, CHANSORN	288914
CABRERA, MARIVIC FABELLORE	202234	GONZAGA, DIANA DOYOLA	294453	LIN, BINGQI	294452	PRANISON, SAMRAN	291214	TINGSON, JENIFFER MASIGLAT	296256	YU, BO	291130
CACATIAN, LOUIE MORATA	291299	GONZALES, AMELIA S	204371	LIN, BIYUN	289292	PRAPAWONG, CHAIWICHIT	289083	TU, CHUANHONG	288191	YU, GUONAN	302685
CAI, LING	298491	GU, JIANHUA	310442	LIN, GUOBIAO	289691	PRARINRAM, SAKORN	289093	UNISA, MARISSA A	287015	YU, QUN	286644
CAI, ZHUXUAN	301697	GU, KEKE	284176	LIN, QIQIU	155527	PROMMART, SURAT	289107	USI, RODRIGO T	310781	YU, XIANMEI	202944
CALALANG, DANIEL CALUAG	205359	GU, LIANHUA	288488	LIN, WENNA	291500	PUANGJAI, JANROEN	289054	VALDEZ, MARY DONNA BELLE DIZON	291679	YU, XUENA	298786
CANTEROS, ROSEMINDA SUBALAN	300497	GU, SHANNING	281211	LIN, YUNHUI	300161	PUEKSUNGNOEN, TAWANNA	289090	VENTURA, RUSSELL TAMONDONG	287182	YU, YANFENG	296864
CAO, CHUNSHAN	202505	GU, SHUI JUAN	109142	LING, CHEN	301010	QIAN, TAIGUO	287046	VILLAREAL, GERTRUDES GERLIE V.	285997	YU, YINGSHUANG	280377
CAO, JINGJI	204683	GU, XUEFENG	285517	LING, JIANHUA	285018	QIN, YUNFENG	283602	VILLASOR, JOHNNY BRANA	293150	YUAN, BILAN	298912
CAO, TINGWEI	297759	GU, XUETIAN	289875	LIU, BENQIONG	299293	QIU, BAOZHONG	285533	VINAS, LORELY GALICIA	283398	YUAN, HAIDONG	288300
CAO, XIUQIN	204070	GU, YAJUAN	205809	LIU, GUI HUA	310407	QIU, DECHENG	301070	VINUYA, ANNETTE LACANDOLA	299431	YUAN, JIAOJIAO	284183
CAPINA, ARACELI VILLAFUERTE	205332	GUAN, LIUYUN	302687	LIU, JIANYING	300604	QIU, SHUMEI	310256	WAN, FENGMEI	286692	YUAN, LINHONG	302740
CARRILLO, LUDIVINA P	128623	GUAN, MENG	284220	LIU, JIAPING	281134	QIU, SHUQING	292008	WAN, HONGYU	293788	YUAN, QING	302440
CASAURAN, JOHN JUN JIM TAN	139127	GUIMALAN, MARILOU ESTACAAN	287128	LONTHAISONG, RADDA	288806	QIU, ZHLI	301171	WANG, DINGDING	297696	YUAN, YE	296582
CASTRO, EDUARDO CUNANAN	200328	GUINTU, GLADYS LOZANO	284409	LOOC, SHIELA ALVARICO	297860	QUAN, LUJIANG	282461	WANG, DONGYA	190839	ZENG, QUN HUA	183338
CAYANAN, ROMERICO BITUIN	202654	GULAPO, MANUEL SUMO	283394	LU, FANGFANG	287118	QUINTANA, RENE EXPEDITO C	288728	WANG, HAIYUN	289281	ZENG, WEIXING	300605
CEN, RONGWEN	203232	GUO, GUANGFU	295075	LU, JIANGUO	303235	RAENGKHRUT, KAWINTPHI	288773	WANG, HUI	280189	ZHANG, CHUNFENG	283295
CENTENO, LYNN BUGARIN	129742	GUO, LIFANG	203309	LU, SHUIQI	281103	RAGA, MARYGRACE PINTON	293504	WANG, JIAN QIANG	280262	ZHANG, CHUNXIAN	297214
CHEN, FEIFEI	280154	GUO, SHEN LIANG	281639	LU, YUXIA	283419	RAMIREZ, EDUARDO AROMIN	203722	WANG, JIANJUN	289176	ZHANG, CHUNZHI	291722
CHEN, GE	287572	GUO, YADI	203310	LUAT, ARMANDO GILE	299246	RAMOS, CHONARAMOS	284261	WANG, JU HONG	136598	ZHANG, DONGLI	284203
CHEN, JIAN	191301	GUO, ZENGYU	287969	LUIS, RICKY SALIBAD	291938	REBELLION, MARICEL ADOLFO	288143	WANG, PEIE	284168	ZHANG, HONGWEI	297137
CHEN, JINSEN	293521	GUTIERREZ, REMELIA GANLIEU	298406	LUO, GUORONG	291103	REDIMO, OFELIA OLAVARIO	310492	WANG, PING	287393	ZHANG, HUI	286180
CHEN, JUN	203474	GUTIER, ALEJO ESGUERRA	290332	LUO, HONGYU	290746	REMILLOZA, RONALD VILLANUEVA	302903	WANG, QICAI	283297	ZHANG, JIAMEI	302293
CHEN, JUN	282517	HAM, HO YUNG	280717	LUO, LONGYUAN	296242	REN, HONGHUA	118959	WANG, SAIHONG	204559	ZHANG, JIE	287888
CHEN, MEIER	293226	HAN, CAILI	282470	LUO, QINGYAN	284147	REN, YANHONG	153832	WANG, SHUREN	296782	ZHANG, JING	280506
CHEN, QIANWANG	293026	HAN, HONGSHI	204539	MA, YUNXIN	292444	RIONDA, JOEL MERJUDIO	287425	WANG, SHUO	285606	ZHANG, JINHONG	289310
CHEN, QINGHONG	286645	HAN, MEISHAN	280501	MACASERO, FRANCISCO EWARAT	293161	RIVAS JR., ROMULO CALDOZA	284930	WANG, XIAOQIN	282594	ZHANG, JUAN	286518
CHEN, RONGSHENG	298812	HAN, YINAN	288784	MACHİYAMA, KEISUKE	285351	RIVERA, ARNOLDO FELICIANO	284274	WANG, XIAOWEI	283360	ZHANG, LIQIN	310202
CHEN, SHUNPENG	295656	HAO, XIUJUAN	289420	MAGDAYAO, GODOFREDO P.	301867	RIVERA, MA ANGELA CONCEPCION	287867	WANG, XIUHUI	288657	ZHANG, LUN	287263
CHEN, WUQI	295315	HARADA, KENJI	182778	MAKHORBIT, NUKIAM	288910	ROCES, MARIGRACE ALMOGELA	134677	WANG, XIAN	203663	ZHANG, NAIQIN	310613
CHEN, XIAOLI	202324	HE, AI QIN	295747	MANAHAN, TEODORO REDONDO	287165	ROCES, RUEL P	134319	WANG, YIN	282570	ZHANG, PINQUAN	294707
CHEN, XIAOPING	298811	HE, DIENA	283542	MANALO, EDMER AGUILA	284393	ROEKBUPPHA, U-RAI	288969	WANG, YUEZHEN	296597	ZHANG, SHUNNAN	290428
CHEN, XINQU	303161	HE, GUOLIANG	289692	MANEEOBO, YAOWATIDA	310570	ROSARIO, BLESILDA RAYMUNDO	287135	WANG, ZHENG YUE	310508	ZHANG, TINGTING	310200
CHEN, XIAOFANG	205738	HE, MEIFENG	300150	MANICDAO, RAMON VERGARA	285250	ROSAS, PRISCILLA ABUAN	310584	WANG, ZHIZHONG	296196	ZHANG, TONGXIAO	300232
CHEN, YANHONG	283836	HE, TONGBO	282030	MANZANO, JOSEPHINE AGWAN	280121	RUAN, CHAOWING	292206	WANG-ART, MAENWIT	289120	ZHANG, WEI	287981
CHEN, ZHIPING	281422	HE, WENKAI	291695	MANZANO, NOEMI DE TORRES	285217	RUTOR, THANDY VILLANUEVA	286524	WEI, DANDAN	291425	ZHANG, XIAOXIA	297185
CHENG, QIANLING	292386	HE, XIU JUN	204194	MARASIGAN, LUISITO ARCEGA	284344	SAE-LIM, PORNRAT	288911	WEI, HANG	294522	ZHAO, CAIYUN	299878
CHENG, QIN FENG	291473	HU, LISHENG									

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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EDITORIAL

Clinton at State

In selecting his erstwhile opponent, Hillary Rodham Clinton, to be secretary of State, Barack Obama has gone boldly where no recent president has gone before. Unlike the lawyers, academics and generals who have dominated the office since World War II, Clinton combines substance and essential qualities for the job with celebrity and a political constituency.

For those who followed the 2008 Democratic primary campaign, this appointment might seem head-scratching incongruous. Wasn't it Clinton who impugned Obama's readiness to be commander in chief with her now-infamous ad about a 3 a.m. call to the White House? Will she now insist on being patched in to that call?

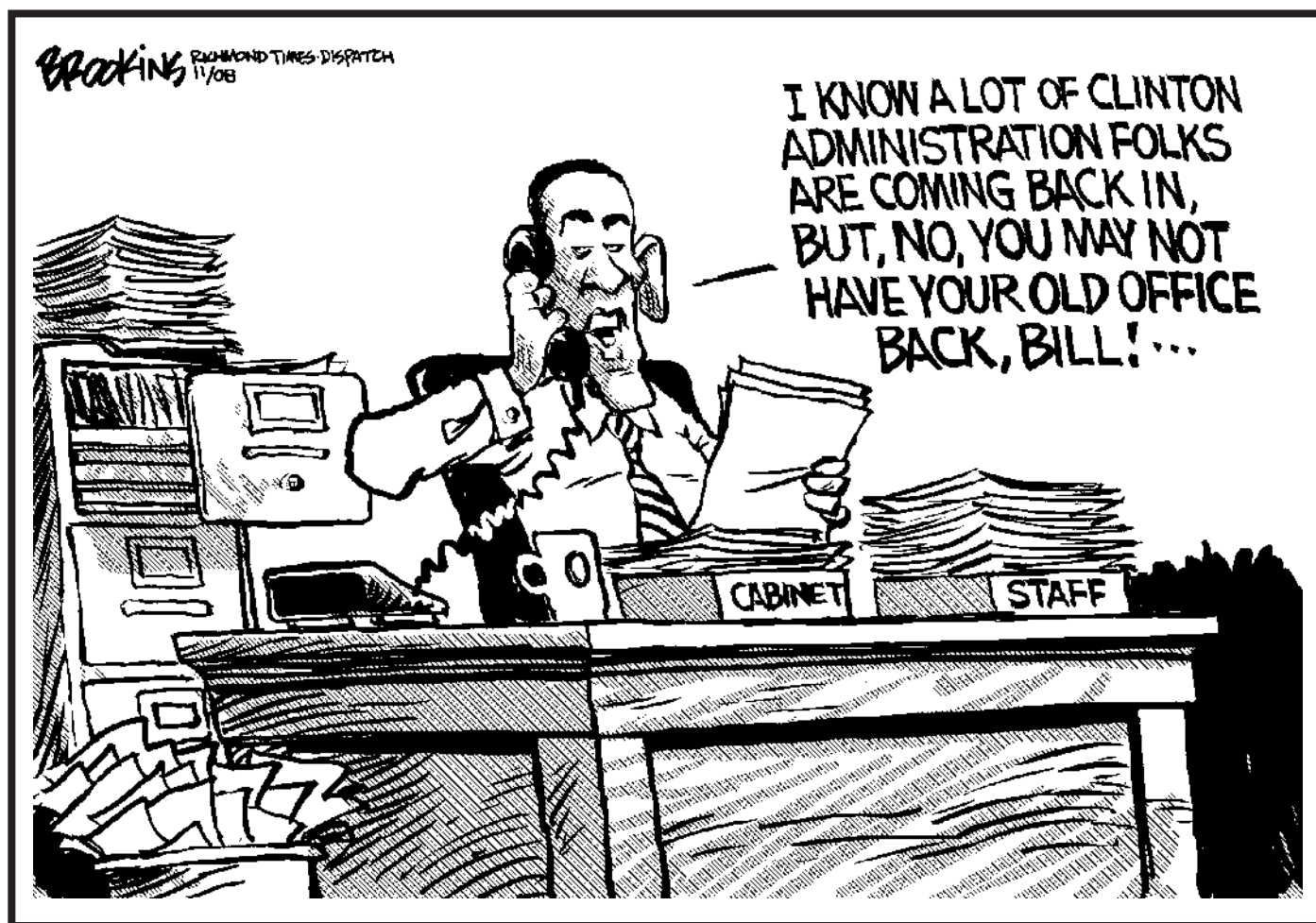
Apparently not. Both Clinton and Obama insist that, partly as a result of her tireless campaigning for him in the general election, they have made their peace and then some. It's also true that their foreign policy differences were exaggerated in the fun-house mirror of the primary campaign. Like Obama, Clinton is willing to engage this country's adversaries afresh, but without foreclosing military action when necessary to defend U.S. interests.

Not even her detractors would deny that Clinton is smart, well-versed in foreign and defense issues and single-minded in pursuing her goals. Her perseverance even after Obama seemed almost certain of victory augurs well for her ability to press for diplomatic breakthroughs—in the Arab-Israeli conflict, for example—when persistence seems futile. So too does her renown as a first lady turned senator turned diplomat.

A canny and charismatic secretary of State can be useful, however, only if allies and adversaries see her as the president's absolute alter ego. As James A. Baker III, President George H.W. Bush's secretary of State, observed, a foreign leader "can see daylight between a president and his secretary of State from a thousand miles away." Such gaps are less likely when the secretary isn't a political luminary. That may explain why the last politician of Clinton's stature to serve as secretary of State was James Byrnes (1945-1947), a former U.S. senator and Supreme Court justice who had angled for the Democratic vice presidential nomination in 1944. (Christian Herter, a former governor of Massachusetts, served under President Eisenhower.)

Although history suggests it is difficult for rivals to collaborate on foreign policy, Clinton may be particularly well-suited for the challenge. Her high profile could help energize U.S. foreign policy while her background as a lawyer serves her in tough negotiations. She has proved to be flexible and pragmatic, as has Obama. His appointment of Clinton, whatever its complexities, shows the president-elect's sense of confidence in her and in the administration they now will share.

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My two-cents worth on healing CUC

Someone has defined "insanity" as doing the same thing over and over again and expecting to get a different result. This brings to mind what we have been doing at the CUC. For over 25 years, we have been trying to improve our utility system repeatedly by making the same mistakes over and over again. The problem has been talked to death with all the suggestions made, but no one has really explored where the real problem lies. So today here are my two cents worth of comments on how to resolve the CUC problem.

Since the CUC has been so badly mismanaged over the past 25 years by all its changes in administration and executive directors, there can only be one conclusion: We are incapable of operating a utility plant! Come on, after 25 years and we cannot run a small power plant! The truth is that we are not capable, and never will be, of successfully running the CUC! Why not? We can discuss this issue later because the same reasons also apply to other government-run operations.

Therefore there is only one way left that this whole mess and fiasco can be corrected. And that is to completely scrap the whole system and start anew. Patchwork, Scotch tape and politics will not put CUC back together again. We need drastic action. Are we ready for it?

We must award the utility plant operation *in its entirety* to an outside group. We must select an outside company who is willing and capable of doing all the following operations:

1. This company will replace all the generators with new ones. What we have now are outdated and have been badly misused. Regardless of repairs, they will never operate as new ones and will continue to require costly repairs. Their life span is over!

2. This company will supply its own fuel to run the generators. Let the new operator find his own source of fuel, whether it is from Indonesia, Philippines, Russia, or any supplier. It will seek the best price because it is to its benefit to keep its costs low. Also it knows the best quality of fuel to use for its own generators.

3. This company will distribute the electricity through the grid and control its flow. It will repair also all the lines, transformers, poles, and all other equipment needed to keep the flow of power constant. This includes the trucks and other equipment needed to back up the system.

4. This company will bill all customers and will collect all money from the use of power. It will set its own policy for the administrative side of the business.

5. This company and the government will organize a joint board of directors composed of qualified people who understand operations of a power plant. At the start there must be complete mutual trust and faith in each party. The new company who takes over the operation of the power plant will lay out its objectives to the board, showing its investment amount and its expected return on it over how many years. In other words it will be a transparent operation. Both side must appreciate and understand the other side's responsibilities and goals. Trust is the key word here.

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



6. All current employees will be tested to prove their ability to do their job. Those that fail will be retrained. If they fail training, they will be dismissed and replaced by new employees. There will be no coddling of lazy or incompetent employees.

7. This company will be given full authority and responsibility to produce electric power without interference from the government. If it has to keep asking: "May I do this? May I do that?" It will fail in its efforts. All the government and legislators should do is enjoy the electricity and air conditioning in their offices. Hands off!

Basically unless a new company totally takes over the operation of the power plant, RFPs and other negotiations will never fix up our problem. We have too many personal interests that conflict. The CNMI consists of an extended family and that is its major problem. We have been doing the same thing for over 25 years. To continue so is insanity. New results will never happen unless new approaches are taken.

All plans we make always change with new administrations. So it has been with the CUC operation. We need a stable operator that does not change with new administrations. Plans take years of doing and growing. Only the same operators over the years, not beholden to government interference, can provide that stability and reliability of performance.

Let me cite a personal example of a government joint venture that resulted in a disaster because of government interference. If you recall back in 1995, an investor named MRC built a marina in the Outer Cove. The government and it had a joint partnership. They had agreed what each of them would perform written in a lease and contract. It was also agreed that after the 15-year lease, MRC would donate the marina to the people as a gift.

After the operation began, the expected users began to find reasons why they didn't want to dock their boats in the marina. They even accused MRC of building an unsafe marina which was proven untrue in court. The government—MRC's partner—instead of siding with MRC and advising MRC, took the side of the boat owners.

Even at an oversight hearing in the Senate, no fault was proven on MRC's part. Despite that, the government refused to implement certain clauses in the contract to which they had previously agreed. As a result of non-assistance by MRC's partner—the government—the marina project failed.

See MY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Students first; teachers, hmm, never mind!

It was such a delight to open the Wednesday edition of the paper and discover the insert that *Saipan Tribune* prepared for the CNMI PSS' Education Day celebration. Body aches kept me home Wednesday while my colleagues celebrated our PSS corporate life at Hopwood.

Saipan Tribune's insert heading of "Students First" was right on target. The stately photo of Andrew Golden shaking hands with George W. Bush at the White House, and his narrative of the highlights of his year, must have run tremors of anticipation in the heart of this year's TOY awardee.

Still, though physically fatigued from the previous day's half-day in the sun during SVES' field day, it felt good reading through the well-designed PR piece. As I am prone to do when perusing a paper or a book, after getting past the cover and the foreword, I flip to the back, usually the last chapter, or, the epilogue. There came the reminder to all through the late William Sablan Reyes's life mission for education: PPS' mandate—nothing but the BEST for CNMI students!

Leafing backwards through the narratives about the various schools' awardees of teachers, teacher aides, and support staff, I got the sense that there is in place a network of dedicated workers capable and willing to pursue WSR's vision and mission. Someone had gotten the story right. Ashley and Donna Mae at Southern High wrote so. With the student-crafted slogan ringing in my ear, "Join the Band of Education and March to Success," a bit corny but pointedly true, I was ready to pass the day without wrestling down to the ground my curmudgeon's skeptical propensity.

Then I finally got to the inside the front cover pages. Page 3 had the Commissioner's message and pictures of the Leadership Team. Heartening image of synergy amongst diverse individuals in the team. The fact that three out of the eight are in "acting" capacities (a category of some of the administrators at the local school level as well) led to the comic query: if they are only acting, does that mean they are not for real?

After the chuckle, the BoE page came to view, echoing words of gratitude for the culture of excellence in the education field. I ignored the appearance of pecking order with Lucia's photo slightly larger than the rest, dismissing it as an editorial slip, or a misguided assumption that members of the Board wanted it that way. What did stand out was what was glaringly absent.

In a day that extolled the virtues of teachers, teachers aides and support staff in providing their BEST for the students, there was no mention of a PSS teacher's presence in the Board at all. I would

have settled for a blank space with the (dis)claimer that the Governor has yet to appoint a teachers' rep, never mind that ACT has been through many hoops just to find out what the Governor required to appoint a Teachers' Representative to the BoE! Even a one-liner that acknowledged the need for a TR would have sufficed!

Confined to quarters, one gets to catch up with e-mail and reading. Some colleagues have been studying the insights of Andrew Bacevich's book *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism*, which proved to be prescient and remarkably relevant to the recent Obama ascendancy and Wall Street gyrations. On the implications of change to the workplace and understanding the motivation of employees, one of my colleagues called attention to the findings of a 2002 book titled, *Driven: How Human Nature Shapes Our Choices*. The work identifies four universal drives: *to acquire* (obtain scarce goods, including intangibles such as social status); *to bond* (form connections with individuals and groups); *to comprehend* (satisfy our curiosity and master the world around us); and *to defend* (protect against external threats and promote justice).

History's influential thinkers about human behavior, e.g., Abraham Maslow who is known for his hierarchy of human needs, struggled to understand why people do the things they do. But the 2002 study has the advantage of knowledge gleaned from neuroscience, biology and evolutionary psychology. The four identified basic emotional needs, or drives, are considered humankind's evolutionary heritage.

In the July-August issue of the *Harvard Business Review*, the identified drives are used to pinpoint current organizational levers in 300 Fortune 500 companies that meet workers' deep needs. Let us see how their findings compare with PSS' treatment of teachers. The italicized sentences are my comments re PSS.

Reward systems that truly value good performance fulfill the drive to acquire. *PSS rewarded Praxis qualifiers save those who have already arrived at the salary cap, and severely penalized non-qualifiers even if their effectivity had already been proven.* The drive to bond is best met by a culture that promotes collaboration and openness. *PSS promotes even among its students a culture of elevated status and bragging rights in spite of its rhetoric on cooperative learning communities.* Jobs that are designed to be meaningful and challenging meet the need to comprehend. *No rationale is proffered to why policy decisions are made, nor why curriculum operational guidelines are followed. In fact, the hierarchical policy of need-to-know basis is the operating mode. PSS' instincts are honed to habits*

A biased view of the matter

About the story in Friday's paper that Micronesian leaders have asked President Bush not to designate the waters of the CNMI's northernmost islands a national monument: It should be noted that the only reason given for the rejection was that it went against the wishes of the indigenous people of the CNMI, as demonstrated by the fact that the majority of the CNMI's elected leaders opposed it.

The truth of the matter is that while a number of elected officials as well as many government officials do object to the monument, these people are as often as not protecting their jobs and the jobs of family members by not publicly going against the biased position that powerful lobby groups have persuaded the governor and his

minions to take.

On the other hand, it has been shown again and again that once people understand just what the monument declaration will do for the CNMI, they are eager to see it come to fruition. Thousands of island residents DO support the proposed monument designation.

The objection by the Micronesian leaders, as is true of several similar organization letters recently reported in the paper, appears to be based solely on misinformation given them by our illustrious governor. Hopefully unknowingly, they are getting a biased view of the matter, which leads them to take a biased position.

According to the story, there was no mention of how the peo-

ple may have felt. Nor was there any discussion, in the message of those leaders to the President, of the benefits such a designation could bring, not only to the people of the CNMI, but also to the entire Micronesian region.

Loyalty to fellow leaders is all very well, but in this case, where the CNMI governor's position is not based on logic, or reason, but on self-interest, such statements cannot and should not be given credence.

tion Dr. Rita Sablan, not former Commissioner of Education Dr. Rita Inos.

Thank you again for your continued excellent coverage of issues related to NMI history and culture.

Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

I asked one of BoE's luminaries earlier why we have this practice of treating non-Praxis-compliant teachers as substitute teachers, and his candor was admirable. It is due solely to labor cost consideration. Borne out of research, ACT recently recommended to BoE a revisit of its previous Praxis decision. I mused: What would it take ACT to occasion a paradigm shift that would awaken its own members to demand their rights to be treated as the great purveyors of the culture of excellence, as the insert claims, rather than as dispensable and disposable labor cost items in the budgetary ledger?

It was then that one of those rare moments of lucidity occasioned the longed sought EUREKA. We've long known that we, the teachers, have met the enemy, and it is us. With the Obama ascendancy, we have also been shown that we have within our power to meet our own requirements. We have met our savior. It is no one but us! Do teachers have enough honor and integrity to claim their rightful role within the system?

It is Monday morning. My 6th grade class begins with the anti-phon: *This is the day we have. We can live this day, or throw it away. This is the day we have.* Might the PSS teachers care that they were not even represented in the BoE page on Education Day? And, will teachers buzz this up a bit, and talk among themselves what they can do about it? Hmmmm, well, my body aches are gone; I am no longer feverish, and I am well and sane again. So? So, never mind!

Jaime R. Vergara
via e-mail

Ruth Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

tion Dr. Rita Sablan, not former Commissioner of Education Dr. Rita Inos.

Thank you again for your continued excellent coverage of issues related to NMI history and culture.

Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

MY

From Page 10

What should be made clear is that the original administration and MRC had no problems with what they agreed on. However, when a new administration was voted into power, that's when all the problems arose. The new administration, eager to placate its voters, turned against MRC and refused to uphold the terms and conditions agreed to by the previous administration. This is a classic example of the failure to honor previous agreements and the failure to mutually respect the partner when administrations change.

Today, only the National Park Service operates the hard land. The local government who is supposed to operate the marina is doing nothing. Meanwhile MRC has lost all its investment because it trusted in the government. As a result the government and MRC are in litigation. It has not only created a debt of millions of dollars to

the CNMI, but the loss of a first-class marina which was to be given free to the CNMI people at the end of the lease term. Sad to say, in a few years it will revert back to what it looked like in 1994, unless someone who cares starts to take care of it. Partnership with the government is like a kiss of death.

This is exactly what will happen if the government and an outside investor try to operate the CUC together. The new company must have full right to operate it on a professional level. The government must stand on the sidelines and let the operator do its job with minimum interference.

To many, this idea may sound ridiculous, stupid and impossible. It goes against the grain of what we think about ourselves. Some of us really don't get it yet. Until we stop thinking that we know better than anybody else, we will always keep failing. A wise person is one who knows that he does not know. Then he finds someone who knows and becomes wise because of it.

After the initial shock of my proposal settles down, think about

it, debate it. I firmly believe there is no other way. We have made too many mistakes, have had too much bad management, wasted millions of dollars, and have given too much suffering to the people over the years.

We cannot solve the CUC situation by trying to operate it ourselves. We must make a complete change. Bandages don't work anymore. We have failed. Yet we have everything to gain by considering my two-cents worth of comments for healing the CUC. Let's swallow our hollow pride and seriously consider my suggestion.






Give the complete operation of the CUC to an outside firm. Thousands of private utility companies are successfully operating in thousands of municipalities across the United States. Why can't we? Think about it. Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

P.S. I would love to hear someone else's comments on this concept. Is it a crazy idea or the only way to settle the CUC dilemma?

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

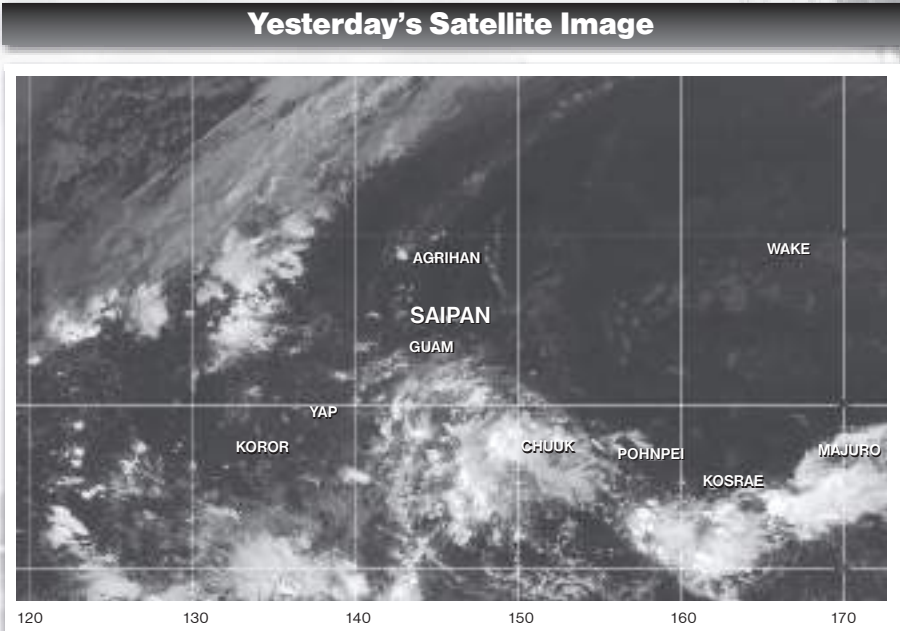
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers becoming partly cloudy with isolated showers by mid morning. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲85 ▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲87 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼80
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼76

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Showers	▲69 ▼57
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲43 ▼25
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲75 ▼55
Honolulu	Showers	▲80 ▼68
London	Showers	▲43 ▼34
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78 ▼54
Manila	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲63 ▼49
Miami	Showers	▲76 ▼56
New York	Showers	▲50 ▼38
Osaka	Sunny	▲55 ▼49
Paris	Cloudy	▲41 ▼36
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲58 ▼39
Rome	Showers	▲55 ▼48
Salem	Cloudy	▲54 ▼44
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼50
Seoul	Rain	▲48 ▼28
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲49 ▼44
Washington, DC	Showers	▲51 ▼37

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
3:38AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
11:02AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:22PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:32PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, NOV. 30, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N147E to beyond 130E at 16N. Cloudiness, patchy rain and isolated thunderstorms are found along and up to 500 miles northwest of the boundary. Convergent trade winds are triggering scattered showers near Koror and Yap in an area bounded by a line from 16N133E to 16N138E to 8N138E to 8N134E back to 16N133E. A surface trough extends southeastward from a weak circulation centered southwest of Koror near 2N130E to end at EQ135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring in an area between the equator and 5N from 130E to 140E. A surface trough extends southward from 6N145E to EQ145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located well south of Guam within 75 miles of the trough axis. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in two areas. The first area spans across Chuuk to just southwest of Pohnpei and is bounded by a line from 9N150E to 6N158E to 2N155E to 4N144E back to 9N150E. The second area lies south of Kosrae and Majuro or within 125 miles of a line from 2N162E to 7N177E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:27AM	5:45 PM	Today	9:09AM	8:34 PM
Tuesday	6:28AM	5:45 PM	Tuesday	9:54AM	9:26 PM
Wednesday	6:28AM	5:45 PM	Wednesday	10:34AM	8:16 PM
Thursday	6:29AM	5:45 PM	Thursday	11:13AM	11:05 PM
Friday	6:29AM	5:46 PM	Friday	11:50AM	11:55 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2008					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
Saipan-Rota			Rota-Saipan		
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm 1,7	CO 9598	3:25am 4:00am	5,6
Saipan-Guam			Guam-Saipan		
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am 3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am Daily	CO9598	2:30am 4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm 1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am 7:50am	Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6	CO9600	10:20am 11:10am	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm 2:50pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm 5:50pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm 8:50pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			Narita-Saipan		
NW 099	5:00am	7:40am Daily	NW 076	10:15am 2:40pm	Daily
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7	NW 077	6:25pm 1:25am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm 1:15am+1	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			Osaka-Saipan		
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 084	10:40am 3:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			Nagoya-Saipan		
NW 078	8:25am	11:05am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm 1:25am+1	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			Incheon-Saipan		
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am 2:20pm	Daily
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm 1:00am+1	7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm Daily	OZ 603	8:10pm 1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan			Busan-Saipan		
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:30pm 2:40am+1	3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai			Shanghai-Saipan		
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am 2,6	FM 843	7:15pm 1:50am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			Guam-Rota		
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm 1,7	CO 9598	2:30am 3:00am	5,6
Guam-Manila			Manila-Guam		
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 3,5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm 5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm Daily	CO 934	11:10pm 4:40am+1	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:10pm 4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)					

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Meltdown’s fallout: Some parents rethink toy-buying

NEW YORK (AP)—In a season that inspires earnest letters about toys, one notable batch is being sent not by kids to Santa’s workshop but by parents to the executive suites of real-world toy makers.

The message: Please, in these days of economic angst, cut back on marketing your products directly to our children.

The letter-writing initiative was launched by the Boston-based Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, which says roughly 1,400 of its members and supporters have contacted 24 leading toy companies and retailers to express concern about ads aimed at kids.

“Unfortunately, I will not be able to purchase many of the toys that my sons have asked for; we simply don’t have the money,” wrote Todd Helm-

kamp of Hudson, Ind. “By bombarding them with advertisements ... you are placing parents like me in the unenviable position of having to tell our children that we can’t afford the toys you promote.”

The Toy Industry Association has responded with a firm defense of current marketing practices, asserting that children “are a vital part of the gift selection process.”

“If children are not aware of what is new and available, how will they be able to tell their families what their preferences are?” an industry statement said. “While there is certainly greater economic disturbance going on now, families have always faced different levels of economic well-being and have managed to tailor their spending to their means.”

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chinese leader says China losing competitive edge

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese President Hu Jintao warned that China has started to lose its competitive edge in trade amid the global financial crisis, as he told Communist Party leaders the challenge posed a test to the government’s ability to rule, state media reported. China’s economic growth is expected to fall to about 9 percent this year, down from last year’s 11.9 percent. That would be the fastest of any major economy, but Chinese leaders worry about possible unrest as unemployment rises, especially in export industries where factories are shutting down as global demand plummets. “External demand has obviously weakened and China’s traditional competitive advantage is being gradually weakened,” Hu said, according to the Communist Party’s official People’s Daily newspaper.

OPEC ends Cairo meeting without new output cuts

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—OPEC held off on announcing new oil output cuts on Saturday, but its alarm over falling demand and a slumping economy potentially laid the groundwork for a big reduction when it meets again in a matter of weeks. Chakib Khelil, Algeria’s oil minister and the group’s president, said the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries ministers noted “with concern the continued deterioration of the global economic situation and its impact on oil demand.” The ministers, he said in a statement, agreed to “take any additional action ... to balance oil supply and demand, and achieve market stability” during their Dec. 17 extraordinary meeting in Oran, Algeria.

FDA sets melamine standard for baby formula

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two months ago, federal food regulators said they were unable to set a safety threshold for the industrial chemical melamine in baby formula. Now, however, they found a way to settle on a standard that allows for higher levels than those found in U.S.-made batches of the product. Food and Drug Administration officials on Friday set a threshold of 1 part per million of melamine in formula, provided a related chemical is not present. They insisted the formulas are safe. The development comes days after The Associated Press reported that FDA tests found traces of melamine in the infant formula of one major U.S. manufacturer and cyanuric acid, a chemical relative, in the formula of a second major maker.

Iceland PM defies calls to resign amid crisis

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)—Iceland’s prime minister said Saturday he has no intention of stepping down over his country’s economic meltdown, even as thousands of angry citizens demanded his resignation during a noisy protest outside parliament. Geir H. Haarde said he intended to lead Iceland through a crisis that has seen the spectacular collapse of the island’s high-flying “Nordic tiger” economy—and which he predicted would worsen next year. “I think it’s inevitable that we will have a severe drop in GDP, in purchasing power, in employment,” Haarde told The Associated Press during an interview at his office in central Reykjavik.

Early data shows strong Black Friday shopping

CHICAGO (AP)—The holiday shopping season got off to a surprisingly solid start, according to data released Saturday by a research firm. But the sales boost during the post-Thanksgiving shopathon came at the expense of profits as the nation’s retailers had to slash prices to attract the crowds in a season that is expected to be the weakest in decades.

Sales during the day after Thanksgiving rose 3 percent to \$10.6 billion, according to preliminary figures released Saturday by ShopperTrak RCT Corp., a Chicago-based research firm that tracks sales at more than

50,000 retail outlets. Last year, shoppers spent about \$10.3 billion on the day after Thanksgiving, dubbed Black Friday because it was historically the sales-packed day when retailers would become profitable for the year.

But this year, many observers were expecting consumers to spend more time browsing than buying, amid contractions in consumer spending and growing fears about economic uncertainty and trouble in the global financial markets.

“Under these circumstances, it’s truly amazing when you think about all the news that led into the holiday season, it cer-

tainly appears that consumers are willing to spend more than most expected,” said ShopperTrak co-founder Bill Martin. “Everybody wants value for their dollar, so we saw a tremendous response to the discounts.”

While it isn’t a predictor of overall holiday season sales, Black Friday is an important barometer of people’s willingness to spend during the holidays. Last year, it was the biggest sales generator of the season while the Thanksgiving shopping weekend of Friday through Sunday accounted for about 10 percent of overall holiday sales.

Still, experts, who predict

this year’s overall holiday shopping period will be the weakest in decades thanks to an overall contraction in spending, caution that this year’s sales growth may be hard to sustain.

Also complicating matters is a shorter buying season—27 days between Black Friday and Christmas—instead of 32 last year.

Across the country, sales in the South were up 3.4 percent from last year while they climbed 2.6 percent in the Northeast as shoppers began scouring store aisles at midnight hoping to snag the best selection on early morning specials, some as much as 70 percent off.



TO ALL NMHC-APPROVED CONTRACTORS



This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors that we are currently updating our *Approved Contractor Listing*. In order for NMHC to extend your company’s inclusion on its listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies not listed below, but wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Certified Current Financial Statement
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Forms
4. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
5. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
6. Workmen’s Compensation Policy
7. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
8. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts **including** three (3) reference letters from owners of the projects
9. List of vendors and suppliers **and** at least three reference letters from them
10. The company’s total years in the construction business
11. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY DECEMBER 1, 2008 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY’S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF “APPROVED CONTRACTORS”.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO

3K CORPORATION
AMERICAN LANGENTE CORPORATION
APEX CONSTRUCTION
ASC CONSTRUCTION
BOKI ENTERPRISES
CAMACHO EQUIPMENT COMPANY
CHARGUALAF & ASSOCIATES
CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL & SUPPLY, INC.
DK BROTHERS
EHC CONSTRUCTION
E.Q. CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
EMB ENTERPRISES
F.T. CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.
FAR CONSTRUCTION
FAST CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
FILTRADE GENERAL CONSTRUCTION
GR CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.
GTS ENTERPRISES, INC.
HAWAIIAN ROCK PRODUCTS
HBR INTERNATIONAL, INC.
J.S. PACIFIC CORPORATION
J.A.M. CONSTRUCTION
JIM BOY CONSTRUCTION
KONSTRAK BULDERS
LANDMARK LIMITED
LR CONSTRUCTION CO.
LUTA CONSTRUCTION CO.
MARFRAN ENTERPRISES
MARIANAS REPAIR CO.
MARS CORPORATION
MD CONSTRUCTION
MICRONESIAN CONSTRUCTION CO.
ML INVESTMENTS DBA CK CONSTRUCTION
MU SUNG CORPORATION

NORTH PACIFIC BUILDERS, INC.
NORTH PACIFIC ENTERPRISES
PACIFIC COOPERATION LTD.
PACIFIC QUALITY BUILDERS
PBM CONSTRUCTION
POWER INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS
PHILIPPINE GOODS CONSTRUCTION
PROFESSIONAL CONSTRUCTION CORP.
PUYAT & SONS CO., INC.
RDC CONSTRUCTION
REYES PLANNING & CONSULTING FIRM (RPCF), INC.
R.P. CONSTRUCTION
RPM CORPORATION
R.E.A.L. INTERNATIONAL CORP.
RM SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION
R.V.E. ENTERPRISES
RNV ASIA PACIFIC CONSTRUCTION
SMALL PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION
SN-5 ENTERPRISES
SOLID BUILDERS
SU CORPORATION
SYSTEM SERVICES COMPANY
TAC INTERNATIONAL DBA TRANSAMERICA CORP.
TL INTERPRISES
TOPTECH INC.
T & S CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
TRANSAMERICA CORPORATION
TRIPLE V ENTERPRISES
UNI-WORLD CONSTRUCTION CO.
U.S.A. FANTER CORPORATION, LTD.
VARGAS CORPORATION
YUMAN CONSTRUCTION
VILLAGOMEZ CONSTRUCTION

“NMHC IS A FAIR HOUSING PROVIDER, LENDER AND EMPLOYER”

Nation

Obama to name Clinton secretary of state on Monday

By BETH FOUHY
Associated Press Writer

President-elect Barack Obama planned to nominate Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton as his secretary of state on Monday, transforming a once-bitter political rivalry into a high-level strategic and diplomatic partnership.

Obama will name the New York senator to his national security team at a news conference in Chicago, Democratic officials said Saturday. They requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly for the transition team.

To clear the way for his wife to take the job, former President Bill Clinton agreed to disclose the names of every contributor to his foundation since its inception in 1997. He'll also refuse donations from foreign governments to the Clinton Global Initiative, his annual charitable conference, and will cease holding CGI meetings overseas.

Bill Clinton's business deals and global charitable endeavors were expected to create problems for the former

first lady's nomination. But in negotiations with the Obama transition team, the former president agreed to several measures designed to bring transparency to his post-presidential work.

The former president had long refused to disclose the identities of contributors to his foundation, saying many gave money on condition that they not be identified. He's now agreed to do so, and has volunteered to step away from day-to-day management of the foundation while his wife serves as secretary of state.

Bill Clinton also agreed to submit his speaking schedule to vetting by the State Department and White House counsel, and to submit any new sources of income to similar ethical review.

Obama's choice of Hillary Clinton was an extraordinary gesture of goodwill after a year in which the two rivals competed for the Democratic nomination in a long, bitter primary battle.

The two clashed repeatedly on for-

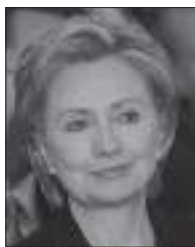
eign affairs during the 50-state contest, with Obama criticizing Clinton for her vote to authorize the Iraq war and Clinton saying that Obama lacked the experience to be president. She also chided him for saying he would meet with leaders of rogue nations like Iran and Cuba without preconditions.

The bitterness began melting away in June after Clinton ended her campaign and endorsed Obama. She went on to campaign for him in his general election contest against Republican Sen.

John McCain.

Advisers said Obama had for several months envisioned Clinton as his top diplomat, and he invited her to Chicago to discuss the job just a week after the Nov. 4 election. The two met privately Nov. 13 in Obama's downtown transition office.

Clinton was said to be interested and then to waver, concerned about relinquishing her Senate seat and the political independence it conferred. Those



Clinton

US Jewish, meditation groups' members die in India

NEW YORK (AP)—Rabbi Gavriel Noach Holtzberg and his wife worked tirelessly after they landed in India to run a Jewish outreach center, serving homemade kosher meals to their many guests and strengthening their connection with God.

Their outpost was in Mumbai, a dusty and chaotic port city. But the pair never let the tough conditions prevent them from creating a comfortable home for Jews visiting India or from helping the needy.

"They were amazing people," said Hillary Lewin, 24, of New York, who met the Holtzbergs last summer at the center. "They had this wisdom, courage

and braveness about them. It's a shame. The world needs people like them."

The 29-year-old rabbi and his 28-year-old wife were killed this week at the ultra-Orthodox Chabad-Lubavitch movement's center in Mumbai during the series of attacks across India's financial capital.

The couple's toddler son, Moshe, was rescued by an employee and taken to his grandparents. At least eight people died at the Jewish center.

Three other victims in the building apparently had been visiting there, said Rabbi Zalman Shmotkin, a spokesman for the Chabad-Lubavitch organization, whose world headquarters are in

Brooklyn. He said the dead included Bentzion Chroman, an Israeli with dual U.S. citizenship; Rabbi Leibish Teitlebaum of New York City; and an Israeli woman whose name was not released. The Israeli Foreign Ministry said the body of a sixth victim, an unidentified woman, was also found inside the five-story building.

Other Americans killed in the attacks were a man and his teenage daughter from a Virginia community that promotes a form of meditation, a colleague said Friday. Alan Scherr, 58, and daughter Naomi, 13, died in a cafe Wednesday night, said Bobbie Garvey, a spokeswoman for the Synchronicity Foundation.

Bases brace for surge in stress-related disorders

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP)—Some 15,000 soldiers are heading home to this sprawling base after spending more than a year at war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and military health officials are bracing for a surge in brain injuries and psychological problems among those troops.

Facing prospects that one in five of the 101st Airborne Division soldiers will suffer from stress-related disorders,

the base has nearly doubled its psychological health staff. Army leaders are hoping to use the base's experiences to assess the long-term impact of repeated deployments.

The three 101st Airborne combat brigades, which have begun arriving home, have gone through at least three tours in Iraq. The 3rd Brigade also served seven months in Afghanistan, early in the war. Next spring,

the 4th Brigade will return from a 15-month tour in Afghanistan. So far, roughly 10,000 soldiers have come back; the remainder are expected by the end of January.

Army leaders say they will closely watch Fort Campbell to determine the proper medical staffing levels needed to aid soldiers who have endured repeated rotations in the two war zones.

concerns were largely ameliorated after Obama assured her she would be able to choose a staff and have direct access to him, advisers said.

Remaining in the Senate also may not

have been an attractive choice for Clinton. Despite her political celebrity, she is a relatively junior senator without prospects for a leadership position or committee chairmanship anytime soon.

Sought: Wal-Mart shoppers who trampled NY worker

NEW YORK (AP)—Police are reviewing surveillance videos of a post-Thanksgiving shopper stampede that trampled a suburban Wal-Mart worker to death, but they acknowledge it may be difficult to bring criminal charges.

Nassau County police and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said no new information was available Saturday on the employee's brutal death, which rattled shoppers even as they flocked to the Valley Stream store a day later.

"It felt a little freakish," customer Ellie Berhun, 48, told the Daily News. "Some man lost his life because a VCR was on sale? Please. It's just too sad for words."

Police said the temporary worker, Jdimytai Damour, was mowed down as about 2,000 bargain-hunters surged into the store at Friday's 5 a.m. opening, leaving a metal portion of the door frame crumpled like an accordion.

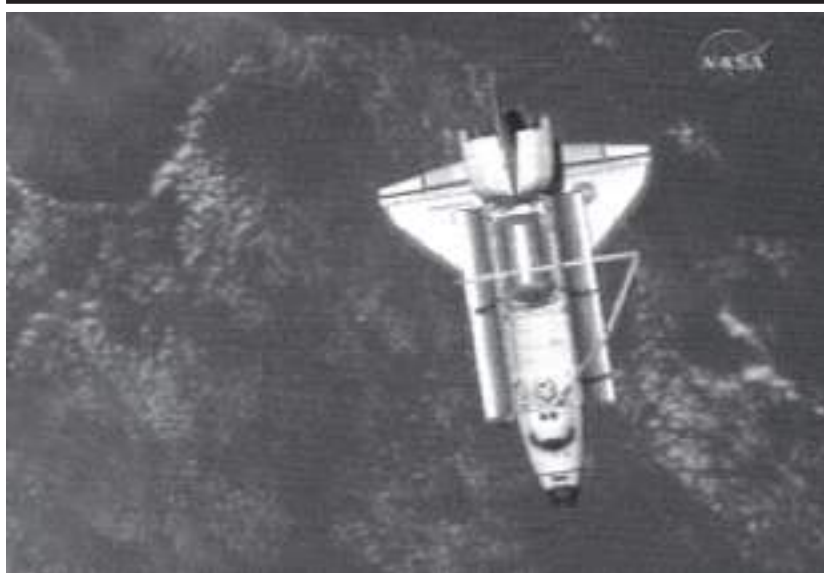
Other workers were knocked to the

ground as they tried to rescue Damour, and customers simply stepped over him and kept shopping even as the store announced it was closing because of the death, police and witnesses said.

At least four other people, including a woman eight months pregnant, were taken to hospitals for observation or treatment for minor injuries. The store, about 20 miles east of Manhattan, closed for several hours but reopened Friday afternoon.

The day after Thanksgiving is known as Black Friday because it has traditionally marked the point when a throng of shoppers pushes stores into profitability for the year.

Bentonville, Ark.-based Wal-Mart said it added staffers and outside security workers and put up barricades to try to prepare for the crush. But police spokesman Detective Lt. Michael Fleming said Friday that security was inadequate for a scene he called "utter chaos."



AP

RETURN VOYAGE

In this image rendered from video and provided by NASA-TV, Space shuttle Endeavour is seen from the International Space Station as the shuttle departs, Friday, Nov. 28, 2008. Their work in orbit accomplished, space shuttle Endeavour's astronauts got the green light Saturday to return to Earth, but were warned "pretty iffy" weather at the main landing site could send them across the country or keep them up an extra day. On Saturday afternoon, Mission Control informed the seven astronauts that Endeavour had been cleared for re-entry following analysis of data beamed down from a final thermal survey of their ship. The space shuttle was found to be free of any serious defects caused by space junk that could jeopardize the descent.

ACROSS THE NATION

Bush: US stands behind India in wake of attacks

WASHINGTON (AP)—President George W. Bush on Saturday pledged full U.S. support to India as it investigates the deadly terrorist attacks in Mumbai, saying the killers "will not have the final word." Bush spoke at the White House after returning from the Camp David presidential retreat where he spent Thanksgiving and monitored the rampage. "The killers who struck this week are brutal and violent," Bush said on the South Lawn with first lady Laura Bush at his side. "But terror will not have the final word. The people of India are resilient. The people of India are strong. They have built a vibrant, multiethnic democracy. They can with-

stand this trial." Before leaving Camp David in the mountains of Maryland, he held an hour-long video-teleconference with U.S. diplomats in India.

Plea deal offered to 8-year-old murder suspect

PHOENIX (AP)—Prosecutors have offered a plea deal to an 8-year-old boy charged with murder in the shooting deaths of his father and another man in their eastern Arizona home, court records show. Complete details of the offer weren't spelled out in a court filing posted Saturday on the Apache County Superior Court's Web site. But County Attorney Criss Candelaria wrote that he has "tendered a plea offer to the juve-

nile's attorneys that would resolve all the charges in the juvenile court contingent on the results of the mental health evaluations." Candelaria was responding to a defense motion seeking to block him from dropping one of two first-degree murder charges the boy faces in the deaths of his father, Vincent Romero, 29, and Timothy Romans, 39, earlier this month.

Pastor who helped get "under God" in Pledge dies

ALEXANDRIA, Pa. (AP)—The Rev. George M. Docherty, credited with helping to push Congress to insert the phrase "under God" into the Pledge of Allegiance, has died at 97. Docherty died on Thanks-

giving at his home in central Pennsylvania, according to his wife, Sue Docherty. She said her husband of 36 years had been in failing health for about three years. "George said he was going to live to be a hundred and he was determined," she said in a telephone interview Saturday. "It's amazing that he was with us this long." Docherty, then pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, just blocks from the White House, gave a sermon in 1952 saying the pledge should acknowledge God.

Fear discourages US residents from visiting Mexico

NOGALES, Ariz. (AP)—The recent spate of drug-related killings in Nogales,

Mexico, is driving apart what have long been close-knit communities, discouraging some residents of its Arizona sister city from crossing the border. Even lifelong residents of the U.S. side of the border are refusing to cross the line to see relatives or friends. Others are going less frequently or restricting themselves to daytime visits. Shopkeeper Ernesto Chavez said his wife no longer goes bowling or has lunch on Tuesdays with her sisters on the other side, a 40-year tradition. Chavez, whose office supply store sits a half-block north of the Morley Avenue border crossing, said he told his wife a few months ago: "'I'm not going to tell you not to go, but it's your life, it's your body.' And she decided not to go. As simple as that."

Asia

India terror begins with corpses on train platform

By **TIM SULLIVAN** and
RAVI NESSMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

MUMBAI, India (AP)—9:21 p.m. Wednesday, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus—Two young men walk casually through Mumbai’s main railway station, a worn Victorian hulk bustling with late commuters heading home, scurrying past small food stands and juice bars and vendors selling newspapers. They enter near the taxi stand, where long lines of battered black and yellow cabs wait for fares. One wears khaki cargo pants and a blue T-shirt. A pair of small knapsacks are slung over a shoulder. He looks like a college kid.

They are, says a photographer who follows them on part of their grim journey, “backpackers with assault rifles.”

The two—and other death squads working in pairs—are to wreak carnage in landmark after landmark across Mumbai over the next three days, creating panic in this normally unflappable city and killing at least 174 people, according to revised government estimates.

Sebastian D’Souza hears the gunfire at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus from his office across the street at the Mumbai Mirror tabloid.

He follows the sound through the sprawling station, slipping unseen through parked trains. When he first catches sight of the young men, he doesn’t realize they are the gunmen. They look so innocent. Then he sees them shooting.

“They were firing from their hips. Very professional. Very cool,” says D’Souza, the newspaper’s photo editor. For more than 45 minutes he follows as they move from platform to platform shooting and throwing grenades. Often, D’Souza isn’t even 30 feet away. The few police at the station are either dead, in hiding or had long fled.

There are billboards everywhere, signs of India’s economic boom. At one point, he photographs them standing beneath a tea company sign. They appear to be having a calm conversation. “WAKE UP!” the billboard reads.

They were 10 gunmen, well-trained and armed with assault rifles and grenades, officials say. They had scouted their targets ahead of time. The knew the hallways and the basements. They even carried bags of almonds for energy. Police say they were Muslim extremists from Pakistan, and may be tied to India’s long-running insurgency in the disputed, largely Muslim, Himalayan region of Kashmir.

They landed in an inflatable rubber boat not long after night-



An Indian cameraman ducks for cover during gunfight in the landmark Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai, India, Saturday, Nov. 29, 2008.

fall on a Mumbai beach, a semi-isolated stretch of sand and stone where fisherman bring in their boats during the daytime. From there, it was less than a 15-minutes walk to their major targets. The group fanned out across the city, hitting 10 spots in two hours. They chose some of the best-known landmarks, many popular with foreigners and the city’s elite. Many of the attacks ended in minutes. But at two luxury hotels and a Jewish center they dug in, fending off hundreds of commandos for days.

■ ■ ■

About 9:30 p.m.
Nariman House, Mumbai headquarters of the ultra-Orthodox Chabad Lubavitch movement.

A gunshot startles the family of Rabbi Gavriel Noach Holtzberg and others inside the recently renovated five-story Jewish center on a bumpy, unpaved back road off a main street in Mumbai’s trendy Colaba neighborhood. The pale yellow building, with its synagogue, kosher dining room and friendly rabbi, was a magnet for Israeli backpackers looking for a place to celebrate holidays while on vacation and an important religious center for Mumbai’s small Jewish community.

Someone must be lighting firecrackers, thought Sandra Samuel, a maid at the center.

Then a gunman came up the stairs.

She and another employee duck into a room and hid in terror as explosions and gunshots rattle the building through the night.

“They destroyed everything, the lift, the dining room, everything,” she says later.

■ ■ ■

About 9:30p.m.
Leopold Cafe and Bar
The place known as Leo’s is one

of the city’s famous tourist restaurants, a joint crammed with glass-topped tables, old travel posters and lounging backpackers drinking cheap beer.

There are maybe 100 people inside when two gunmen appear in the entrances. One lobs in a grenade. Then they open fire.

“It was total chaos ... People didn’t know what was going on. Some hit the floor, some ran out of the side entrance or tried to find a place to hide,” says Farzad Jehani, who owns the restaurant with his brother.

The assault lasts, perhaps, two minutes. When it’s over, at least four foreigners and three Indians are dead, though the brothers aren’t sure because patrons quickly rush the casualties to hospitals in passing cars and taxis.

By then the gunmen have left, jogging through the streets and apparently moving on to one of India’s most famous hotels just a few blocks away.

“They weren’t aiming at anyone in particular. It was like they wanted to empty their magazines and do as much damage here as possible before heading to the Taj,” Jehani says.

■ ■ ■

About 9:45 p.m.
Taj Mahal hotel

No one believes it’s gunfire. Not at the Taj. Built more than a century ago by one of India’s most powerful business families, the castle-like Taj Mahal is the crossroads of the city’s elite. It has been the scene of countless society weddings, business meetings and expensive dates. It is an icon of Mumbai.

But it is gunfire that two men are spraying across the ornate lobby, with its gray marble floor and Persian carpets the size of small swimming pools.

Dalbir Bains, who runs a high-end Mumbai lingerie shop, is

sitting down to a steak dinner by the pool with friends. They joke about hearing gunfire. Quickly, though, screams fill the hotel and her laughs turn to terror. She runs upstairs and huddles under a table in a restaurant with about 50 others, desperately trying to be quiet.

“The gun shots were following us,” says Bains.

■ ■ ■

9:47 p.m.
Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus

The gunmen shoot toward a large glass-fronted restaurant.

They are “firing at people waiting for the train. Luggage was spread everywhere. The place was full of blood. There were lots of people lying there dead,” says manager Fongen Fernandes.

Soon, though, everyone is dead or hiding. Except for corpses, the platforms are empty, d’Souza says.

The worst of the carnage appears to be in a waiting room for out-of-town trains. It was filled with dozens of bodies, many shot in the head. Overall, authorities say, 53 people are killed.

Eventually, the gunmen steal a truck and drive away. A little later, one is killed by police and another, the only gunmen taken alive, is captured. He is Pakistani.

At the station, authorities use wooden baggage carts to clear the corpses.

Says Fernandes: “They collected them away like sheep and goats.”

■ ■ ■

About 10 p.m.
Oberoi Hotel

Joseph Joy Pulithara, a waiter, is working in the Chinese restaurant of this modern luxurious monolith when the gunfire starts, sending diners and staff

See **INDIA on Next Page**

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Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,)	Civil Action No. 03-0414C
vs.)	NOTICE OF AUCTION
JAMES A. FLEMING, CRISTANCIA M. FLEMING, ROSALIA A. FLEMING, ALFRED F. FLEMING, DEEPAK H. SADHWANI, Defendants.)	

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants James A. Fleming and Cristancia M. Fleming in the following described, real property situated in San Jose, Tinian, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Fee Simple in land situated in San Jose, Tinian, CNMI. **Lot No. 003 T 23** (formerly Block 7 Lot 1) as shown on the Division of Land and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 T 00 dated July 20, 1970, and containing an area of 1,476 square meters, more or less, and including all existing and permanent improvements on the real property, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, December 19, 2008**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid.** No minimum opening bid.
2. **Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:

- a) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.

5. **Deposit: Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of James A. Fleming and Cristancia M. Fleming in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this _____ day of November 2008.
/s/ _____

SANTIAGO F. TUDELA,
COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,)	Civil Action No. 97-341
vs.)	NOTICE OF AUCTION

MANUEL A. TENORIO, The ESTATE OF MARTINA C. TENORIO, ROSALIA T. SABLAN, JOAQUIN A. TENORIO, JOSE A. TENORIO, and PEDRO A. TENORIO, Defendants.

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Manuel A. Tenorio and the Estate of Martina C. Tenorio in the following described real property situated in San Vicente, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Tract No. 22888-8, containing an area of 2,041 square meters, with the following coordinates: N 70° 43' 32" E, 63.50 meters to Corner 2; S 18° 53' 06" W, 65.62 meters to Corner 3; N 74° 37' 22" W, 27.43 meters to Corner 4; N 19° 53' 41" W, 36.00 meters to Corner 1; as shown in Drawing No. 2049/80, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith;

and

Lot 401 New-2-1, containing an area of 2,000 square meters, as more particularly described as beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1, having plane rectangular coordinates of 47,329.502 meters North and 50,833.089 meters east of the Mariana Islands District Coordinate System of 1960:

Thence S 53° 17' 16" E, 42.250 meters to corner 2; Thence S 47° 04' 21" E, 15.000 meters to corner 3; Thence S 31° 56' 58" W, 36.233 meters to corner 4; Thence N 51° 39' 38" W, 51.996 meters to corner 5; Thence N 23° 58' 28" E, 37.10 meters to corner 1, the point of beginning, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith, which property (i.e., Lot 401 New-2-1) was divided and partitioned out of Lot 401 New-2, and includes an easement of access and necessity, allowing ingress and egress to and from Lot 401 New-2-1, across Lot 401 New-2-R1;

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, December 19, 2008**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
 2. **Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.
 3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
- a) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.

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6. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Manuel A. Tenorio and the Estate of Martina C. Tenorio in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 21st day of November 2008.
/s/ _____

SANTIAGO F. TUDELA,
COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety

51 protesters wounded in Bangkok explosions

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—At least 51 anti-government protesters were wounded in several explosions early Sunday, raising fears of widening confrontations in a standoff that has strangled Thailand's economy and shut down its airports.

The first blast went off inside Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat's office compound, which protesters seized in August and have held ever since. At least 49 people were hurt, including nine who were hospitalized, said Surachet Sathitniramai at the Narenthorn Medical Center. He said four were in serious condition.

Suriyasai Katasiya, a spokesman for the protest group, said a grenade landed on the roof of a tent under which protesters were resting. It rolled down and fell to the ground before exploding, he said.

■■■
BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) —The vacation is over for tens of thousands of tourists in Thailand. But they can't go home.

The Hotel California-like drama began Tuesday when anti-government protesters shut the country's primary international

airport. The following day they moved in on the capital's domestic airport, grounding all commercial flights in and out of the city.

About 100,000 people have

been stranded by the closures, dealing a severe blow to the country's reputation as a safe and reliable vacation destination. Officials project the tour-

ism industry's losses from now until the end of the year will balloon to about 150 billion baht (\$4.2 billion), equal to 1.5 percent of gross domestic product.

Hundreds gathered at Thai Airways' cramped ticket office in Bangkok on Saturday desperately seeking a way out of the country.

■■■

The demonstrators, who call themselves the People's Alliance for Democracy, accuse the government of being a puppet of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by a 2006 military coup and fled overseas to escape corruption charges.

Twenty-minutes after the compound attack, two more blasts rocked an anti-government television station but there were no injuries, Suriyasai said.

In another pre-dawn strike, an explosive device detonated on the road near the main entrance to Don Muang. Surachet and an Associated Press television cameraman said two people were wounded.

Police were unable to verify the accounts.

The protest group has been attacked several

times by small bombs and grenades, including a blast earlier this month that killed one person and wounded 29.

Deputy Prime Minister Olam Chaipravat, who oversees eco-

nomics affairs, said the number of foreign tourist arrivals next year was expected to fall by half to about 6 million, resulting in 1 million job losses in the crucial tourism industry.



An injured anti-government protester is attended to by colleagues after an explosion during a protest at government house Sunday, Nov. 30, 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan U-turns on sending spy chief to India

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan demanded evidence for Indian charges it was involved in the Mumbai attacks and reversed its decision to send its spy chief to aid a probe, muddying efforts to avert a crisis between the nuclear-armed neighbors. Pakistan's government Saturday reinforced its pledge to help India identify and apprehend those behind the grisly attacks, which left more than 190 people dead in the financial hub Mumbai. "We stand shoulder to shoulder with the Indian people to defeat this common enemy," Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi told a news conference in Islamabad. Deep mistrust between the South Asian rivals, who have already fought three wars, endangers efforts by the U.S. and its Western allies to battle al-Qaida and Taliban militants in the region.

300 Chinese cab drivers hold strike in south China

BEIJING (AP)—About 300 taxi drivers went on strike in a southern Chinese city, smashing cars and demanding a crack-down on unlicensed taxis in the latest protest against illegal taxi competition in China. Hundreds of cab drivers gathered Saturday in front of government buildings in Chaozhou, a city in Guangdong province, said an official Sunday from the Chaozhou city government who would only give his surname, Chen. More than 200 taxis were parked in front of the gate of a government office as drivers sought greater enforcement against unlicensed taxis, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Chen said police detained seven people suspected of smashing cars belonging to drivers who had refused to participate in the strike. The drivers were expected to resume it on Sunday, Xinhua said. But Chen said the strike appeared to have been called off.

INDIA

From Page 15

scrambling. Pulithara is shot in the leg. A woman nearby him is shot in the head.

The gunmen run into another restaurant and fire unrelenting bursts at the diners and waiters, says Andreina Varagona, an American meditation teacher shot in the arm and leg. At least a dozen people fall to the floor dead, including one of Varagona's friends.

"There were bodies everywhere," Varagona says. "I felt like I was in a movie."

The attackers herd dozens of survivors into a stairwell. One demands to see their IDs, saying he was looking for Americans and Britons. Then he forces them upstairs, says Alex Chamberlain, a British guest.

Chamberlain and many others throughout the hotel dash out in the chaos.

Staff in one restaurant spirit at least 60 diners into a back kitchen and then hustle them to another room where they are served refreshments and then escorted outside, according to the hotel's chairman P.R.S. Oberoi.

Other guests barricade themselves in their rooms.

The gunmen are taking hostages.

■■■

10:35 p.m.

Gunmen briefly attack a police station. A few minutes later they open fire at a hospital, then am-

bush a police car, killing five officers and driving away. Soon after, a bomb explodes in a taxi in the suburban neighborhood of Vile Parle. About 15 minutes later, a bomb goes off in another taxi inside the city. One person is believed killed.

■■■

Thursday morning The Oberoi

A banner hanging from a window carries a simple but wrenching plea: "Save Us."

Inside, hundreds are hiding in their rooms, or being held hostage.

The gunmen, armed with rifles and grenades, push Egyptian businessman Osama Embabi into a room where four or five people—guests from other Arab countries and hotel workers—are already being held.

"They shouted and warned us not to leave the room or we would be shot," he says. Meanwhile, Lo Hoei Yen, a 28-year-old Singaporean lawyer, calls her husband, Michael, from her cell phone. She is being held captive, she tells him, and the gunmen threaten to kill her if Indian forces storm the hotel, Singapore media reports say.

After 9 a.m., Indian forces begin what will be a daylong operation to rescue the Oberoi hostages.

Lo's body is found on the 19th floor.

■■■

Thursday

Across the city, it seems the

Indian police and military may never catch up. They are fighting gunmen in three locations, including two of the city's most famous landmarks, and hundreds of people are trapped. Fires burn occasionally in both hotels, and firefighters with water hoses and cherry pickers battle the blazes, but only when it's safe enough to approach the buildings. Gunshots and explosions have become the soundtrack of south Mumbai.

Residents have faced terrorism before, but this time it seems different.

"There is a limit a city can take," says Ayesha Dar, a 33-year-old homemaker.

■■■

10:45 a.m. Nariman House

The Jewish center is silent, except for the wailing of a child.

Samuel, the maid, cracks open the door of her hiding place and sees a deserted staircase. She runs up one flight and finds the rabbi's 2-year-old son Moshe crying beside his parents and two Israeli guests who lay still on the floor. His pants are drenched with blood. She grabs the boy, bolts down the stairs and out of the building.

■■■

The soldiers who fought the gunman say they were tough, bitter opponents.

"It's obvious they were trained somewhere ... Not everyone can handle the AK series of weapons or throw grenades like that," an unidentified mem-

ber of India's Marine Commando unit, his face wrapped in a black mask, tells reporters after his units stormed the hotels. The attackers were "very determined and remorseless."

■■■

Friday About 7 a.m. Nariman House

Black-clad commandos fan out on the rooftops of the evacuated buildings surrounding the Jewish center and begin laying down covering fire.

A helicopter drops toward the roof. One after another, masked commandos slither down a rope. The helicopter returns with more commandos, then a third time with equipment.

Slowly, the assault team descends an outside staircase and begins clearing the building.

A small explosion erupts from the house. A few seconds later, two gunshots, a pause, then two more. For hours, a similar pattern is repeated. Holes are blasted in the building as hundreds of gawkers cheer from nearby streets.

■■■

Friday morning The Oberoi

Dozens of hostages clutching passports are rushed from the hotel into waiting cars, buses and ambulances.

At 3 p.m., the government announces it has killed the two gunmen inside and taken control of the building.

The pair had killed 32 people—22 hotel guests and

10 workers—and wounded many more.

By evening, more than 100 former hostages have been escorted from the building.

■■■

5:39 p.m. Nariman House

Indian commandos launch a rocket at one of the Jewish center's upper floors, shaking the neighborhood and blowing out windows in neighboring buildings.

■■■

6:15 p.m. Nariman House

A small group of commandos appear in the street, raising their rifles in triumph. The crowd breaks through police barriers and floods the streets in celebration.

Inside the building, nine people lay dead, including the rabbi and his wife. According to Israeli media reports, some are wrapped in prayer shawls.

■■■

Overnight Friday Taj Mahal

Fighting continues at the seaside hotel. Authorities say one, perhaps two, gunmen are still inside. Explosions and gunfire ring out intermittently, intensifying at dawn. Fire, once again, streams out through broken windows, lapping at the stone sides of the building. Clouds of black smoke rise high above the Arabian Sea. Outside, dozens of reporters crouch in the seaside plaza in front of the Taj, and sometimes a half-dozen TV re-

porters can be heard at once providing breathless commentaries about the situation. Few bother to take cover.

■■■

8:30 a.m. Saturday Taj Mahal.

After so much destruction it ends quietly. There is no announcement of victory. One minute, there are explosions inside, and a few minutes later a man walks casually out into the plaza out front—a place where soldiers in body armor had been sprinting in fear—and waves for firefighters to come put out the remaining blazes.

The Taj Mahal siege is declared over, ending three days of terror. It has been 60 hours since the first pair of gunmen walked into the train station.

Outside, bits of burned debris fill the plaza. Strings of white bed sheets, tied together, hang from the windows, reminders of those who escaped. Almost a dozen buses are parked nearby, just a few feet from the Arabian Sea. They are filled with soldiers and commandos finally getting a break.

Hundreds of people push their way toward the buses, pressing flowers into their hands.

Tim Sullivan contributed to this story from New Delhi and Ravi Nessman from Mumbai. Associated Press writers Ramola Talwar Badam, Erika Kinetz, Anita Chang, Jenny Barchfield and Paul Peachey contributed to this report.

World

Over 300 dead in Nigeria violence

JOS, Nigeria (AP)—Mobs burned homes, churches and mosques Saturday in a second day of riots, as the death toll rose to more than 300 in the worst sectarian violence in Africa's most populous nation in years.

Sheikh Khalid Abubakar, the imam at the city's main mosque, said more than 300 dead bodies were brought there on Saturday alone and 183 could be seen laying near the building waiting to be interred.

Those killed in the Christian community would not likely be taken to the city mosque, raising the possibility that the total

death toll could be much higher. The city morgue wasn't immediately accessible Saturday.

Police spokesman Bala Kassim said there were "many dead," but couldn't cite a firm number.

The hostilities mark the worst clashes in the restive West African nation since 2004, when as many as 700 people died in Plateau State during Christian-Muslim clashes.

Jos, the capital of Plateau State, has a long history of community violence that has made it difficult to organize voting. Rioting in Septem-

ber 2001 killed more than 1,000 people.

The city is situated in Nigeria's "middle belt," where members of hundreds of ethnic groups commingle in a band of fertile and hotly contested land separating the Muslim north from the predominantly Christian south.

Authorities imposed an around-the-clock curfew in the hardest-hit areas of the central Nigerian city, where traditionally pastoralist Hausa Muslims live in tense, close quarters with Christians from other ethnic groups.

80 whales die in stranding in Australia

HOBART, Australia (AP)—A group of about 80 whales stranded on a remote coastline in southern Australia were battered to death on rocks before rescuers could reach them.

Officials from Tasmania state's Parks and Wildlife Service rushed Sunday in four-wheel-drive vehicles to the remote site at Sandy Cape after the long-finned pilot whales were spotted by air a day earlier.

A helicopter crew that ar-

rived late Saturday found about a dozen of the whales injured but alive, but by the time the road crew arrived all of the group were dead, said Warwick Brennan, a spokesman for the service.

The coastline is strewn with reefs and jagged rocks, making it much more dangerous for the stranded whales than if they had landed at a sandy beach, said Rosemary Gales, another wildlife service official.

"Because of the physical beating they take from stranding on rocks and surf, compared to sandy beach strandings, animals die more quickly," said Gales.

About 15 whales that seemed to be part of the same pod began swimming away from the area after the last of the stranded whales died. The second group swam near those stranded and may have been responding to cries of distress, Brennan said.

Fishermen find ancient boat in Black Sea

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP)—A well-preserved ancient wooden dugout canoe has been discovered at the bottom of the Black Sea, scientists said Saturday.

The vessel was discovered by fishermen trailing nets along the sea bottom some 15 miles off the coast, said Dimitar Nedkov, head of the Archaeological Museum in the port city of Sozopol.

"The dugout is 2.6 meters

(8.5 feet) long and 70 centimeters (27.5 inches) wide, and it is made most probably of oak," Nedkov told The Associated Press.

Bulgarian explorers have found four ancient vessels in remarkably good condition in the Black Sea, whose oxygen-depleted deep water preserves wrecks without the worm damage and deterioration that nor-

mally affects wooden vessels.

"Nowhere else can you find similar dugouts, as well as any kind of wooden vessels over 300 years old, because water rots the wood away," said Bozhidar Dimitrov, head of the National Museum of History. "In the Black Sea, however, there is dissolved hydrogen sulfide below a certain depth which preserves all organic materials."

WORLD BRIEFS

US training Iraqis to defeat deadly roadside bombs

BESMAYA RANGE COMPLEX, Iraq (AP)—Two Iraqi soldiers acting as insurgents hook up a cellular phone detonator to a 155mm artillery shell with a coiled red wire, bury the mock bomb in a pile of dirt next to a rusty electricity pole and then disappear down the street. Minutes later, an Iraqi army patrol in Humvees and an armored vehicle with radio-jamming equipment speed into the dusty intersection and disable the bomb remotely with a robot, as U.S. and Iraqi generals observe the training drill from the shade of a tent. The exercise at this sandy, wind-swept Iraqi military base south of Baghdad is part of U.S. efforts to pass on hard-learned lessons to Iraq's army on how to combat what has long been the insurgent weapon of choice - roadside bombs. The need for Iraqi units that can clear streets of explosives is pressing. Last Thursday, Iraq's parliament approved a security agreement that would pull American troops out of

Iraqi towns and cities by July 2009 ahead of a withdrawal from the country by the end of 2011.

Betancourt in Colombia, begins South America trip

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Ingrid Betancourt, back home in Colombia for the first time since her July rescue, said Saturday that she would spend the week visiting South American leaders to thank them for their efforts to secure her release. Betancourt, who met with President Alvaro Uribe after arriving from Europe, said that though she is "neither a mediator nor a facilitator" she would do her all to try to secure freedom for the rebel-held hostages she left behind in Colombia's jungles. "Contacts are frozen and a way has to be found to reach the FARC," she said of the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which kidnapped and held her for six years. The world's most celebrated former hostage also told a news conference that she was thrilled by U.S. President-elect Barack

Obama victory and has met with members of his transition team.

Israelis mourn rabbi, wife slain in Mumbai

KFAR CHABAD, Israel (AP)—Rabbi Gavriel Noach Holtzberg and his wife Rivkah had no fear when they embarked on their mission to open a Jewish center in the Indian city of Mumbai, her brother said Saturday night as relatives in Israel prepared to bury the couple slain in a three-day terror spree. The 29-year-old rabbi, a dual U.S.-Israeli citizen, and his 28-year-old Israeli wife were among nine killed in the center run by the ultra-orthodox Chabad-Lubavitch sect and nearly 200 dead in the 60-hour rampage by suspected Muslim militants. "She went with courage to this mission in India," Rivkah's brother Shmuel Rosenberg told The Associated Press after the end of the Jewish Sabbath. He described her as a strong, industrious and intelligent woman with a nuanced mind. "She had no fear," and neither did her husband, he said.

Health & Fitness

What gets the pros moving

By Jeannine Stein
(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Personal trainers don't always pluck their ideas out of thin air. Sometimes they're inspired by books and videos. We asked a group of local trainers to recommend books and DVDs they found motivating.

GEORGE PADILLA

Group exercise coordinator, Los Angeles Athletic Club

Book: "The Purposeful Primitive: Using the Primordial Laws of Fitness to Trigger Inevitable, Lasting and Dramatic Physical Change" by Marty Gallagher (Dragon Door Publications, 2008)

This book encompasses strength training, nutrition and cardio, and has some pretty interesting ideas about working out that go more toward intensity and away from those long cardio sessions. Instead of getting on the treadmill and having to slog away for an hour, you get a lot more out of the workout. You're doing shorter workouts, and that lessens impact on the joints, which helps prevent overuse injuries. Shorter workouts are also good for busy people.

The nutrition portion of the book doesn't necessarily focus on counting calories, but more on the composition of the meal, and the importance of pre- and post-training eating, which will help keep your metabolism up and maximize the body's ability to use calories to recover

from a workout, versus being stored as fat.

People perhaps intuitively think that they're going to get a better workout on an empty stomach, but that's not necessarily the case. If you fuel your workout beforehand, you'll likely end up having a higher intensity workout.

SARA WILLIS

Personal trainer, Joe's Gym, Los Angeles

DVD: Mahler's Aggressive Strength Beginner Kettlebell Training Workshop

This video really breaks down how to do the kettlebell movements, and explains why you're doing it. (Mahler) also gives a lot of modifications. Kettlebells are so intense, and not everybody can even start out with one—some people might have to use their body weight. Once you get that down, you can progress to using the kettlebells.

Kettlebells are the hot thing right now, but using them does take a lot of conditioning. What's great about the DVD is that it explains step by step how to get proper alignment.

When I do kettlebells with clients, they gain not only power, but core conditioning as well, because when you throw the kettlebells up, you create an instability, and your center of gravity is slightly different than using a dumbbell. The cardio benefit is incredible—just doing two reps you'll feel it. You

really shock the system, and by doing so it helps you burn more fat—and it's fun and different.

KIM SCHNEEBERGER

Personal trainer, the Easton Gym, Santa Monica, Calif.

Book: "Get With the Program!: Getting Real About Your Weight, Health, and Emotional Well-Being" by Bob Greene (Simon & Schuster, 2002)

I have a hard time agreeing with trainers who are out there—there are so many things written that are just not true and aren't encouraging for people to read.

Bob Greene really has a good understanding of what he's doing, and anybody can follow his advice, if they want to lose 10 or 100 pounds, if they're a beginner or an athlete. Anybody can understand it, and he's very compassionate. He's a likable trainer.

The exercise programs are very straightforward, and he gives you options. You can start off with the basics, or if you're already exercising, you can jump into the program (at a later stage).

It's pathetic to think about losing weight as having to follow so many rules and having to calculate things. In terms of nutrition, Bob will point out things that are maybe not as well known, like hidden calories in foods most people don't know, or foods that aren't that filling or are high in sugar. Very simple things that make sense.



Physical fitness trainer Sara Willis, right, trains Candace Coffee with a kettlebell at Joe's Gym in Los Angeles. "Kettlebells are the hot thing right now," Willis says.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Life & Style

Sydney Opera House designer Joern Utzon dies at 90

By JAN M. OLSEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Joern Utzon, the Danish architect who designed the iconic Sydney Opera House, has died. He was 90.

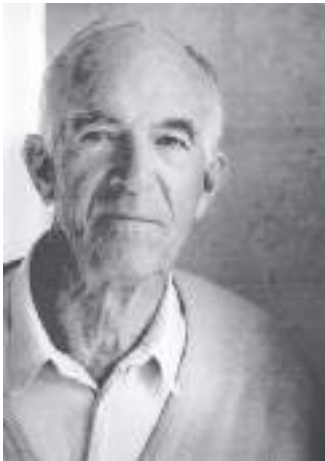
Utzon died from a heart attack in his sleep early Saturday, surrounded by family members in Denmark, his son, Kim Utzon, told The Associated Press.

"He had not been doing well these past few days, since

Thursday. He had been undergoing a series of operations recently," Kim Utzon said. He declined to give details.

Utzon, who has often been compared to architecture greats such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Alvar Aalto of Finland, drew up the design for the opera house in Sydney, Australia, in 1957.

But he quit the project in 1966—seven years before it was finished—after scandals about cost blowouts and design arguments. Government-ap-



pointed architects took over and the interior was not completed to Utzon's original plan.

Although considered an architectural masterpiece, the Sydney Opera House has been criticized for poor acoustics in the Concert Hall and a lack of performance and backstage

This is an undated file photo of Danish architect Joern Utzon. Utzon who designed the iconic Sydney Opera House has died. He was 90.

AP

space in the Opera Theater.

Utzon, who in recent years had been suffering from a degenerative eye condition that made him virtually blind, declined several invitations to return to Australia, citing high blood pressure. Still, he said he wasn't bitter about the dispute over the Sydney landmark.

"It's part of education—I can't be bitter about anything in life," Utzon told AP in 1998.

Born April 9, 1918, in the Danish capital of Copenhagen, Utzon graduated from the city's Academy of Arts in 1942. He worked in the offices of Swedish architects Paul Hedquist and Gunnar Asplund and later with Aalto in Finland, before he established his own office in Copenhagen in 1950.

Utzon's earliest buildings were private homes. It came as a surprise to many when he won the competition for the Sydney Opera House in 1956. The building, with its distinctive white roof shells resembling sails, is perched on the edge of Sydney Harbour.

Utzon received the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2003 for his design of the opera house. The jury singled it out as among the most iconic buildings of the 20th century, saying it "proves that the marvelous and seemingly impossible in architecture can be achieved."

Utzon also designed the National Assembly building in Kuwait City. Constructed between 1971 and 1983, the parliament building is made of concrete and its shape evokes a series of large tents, traditional meeting places for the Bedouin nomads that live in Kuwait.

The soft-spoken Dane lived in Mallorca, off Spain's eastern coast, with his wife Lis Utzon, for several years.

Utzon and his sons, Kim and Jan, designed several projects in partnership, including a church in Bagsvaerd, a Copenhagen suburb, which opened in 1976, and a furniture and design showroom, known as Paustian, in the Copenhagen harbor that was completed in 1983.

Still going: Energizer Bunny enters his 20th year

By JIM SALTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Turns out he really does just keep going and going.

The Energizer Bunny, the symbol of battery maker Energizer Holdings Inc., debuted in commercials in 1989 and has, well, kept going ever since.

Now entering his 20th year, the advertising icon has become famous enough that people who persevere beyond reasonable expectation are often referred to, or call themselves, the "Energizer Bunny." Among the many references from politicians:

■ In 1996, Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole, then 72, dismissed concerns about his age, saying: "I'm like the Energizer Bunny. We've got a lot of juice left in our generation."

■ With his 2004 presidential campaign floundering, Democratic candidate Howard Dean promised reporters to keep "going and going and going and going - just like the Energizer Bunny."

■ In 2005, former President George H.W. Bush said of former President Bill Clinton as they traveled together to raise funds for victims of the Asian tsunami, "You should have seen him going, town to town, country to country, Energizer Bunny here."

The pink bunny, always pounding a drum, always wearing sunglasses and flip-flops, made his debut in an October 1989 ad in which he marched off the set as the stage manager implored, "Stop the bunny, please."

The bunny soon showed up in a series of parody commercials for products such as wine, coffee and long-distance phone service, always banging the drum into the commercial to interrupt.

Two decades later, he is still going strong.

"It became an advertising icon," Neal Burns, an advertising professor at the University of Texas, said Friday. "They found a meaningful and differentiating position within the

category that is important to the consumer, and what's important for a battery is that it's long-lasting, it just keeps going."

To mark the start of his 20th year, a 40-foot-tall bunny float took part in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York and kept going down 34th Street while other participants made a right onto 7th Avenue.

The ad agency DDB Need-

ham Worldwide Inc. came up with the idea of the drum-beating bunny. In a recent advertising-related study, 95 percent of respondents were aware of the bunny. AdAge.com has named it one of the top 10 advertising icons. And in 2006, the Oxford English Dictionary defined the Energizer Bunny as "a persistent or indefatigable person or phenomenon."

That same year, St. Louis-based Energizer began its Keep Going Hall of Fame to honor people with a tenacious spirit.

"The message of the Energizer Bunny has remained consistent over the last two decades," said Ward Klein, chief executive officer of Energizer. "He speaks to longevity, determination and perseverance. He personifies the American spirit."

ON THE NET

<http://www.energizer.com/>



AP

In this Nov. 27, 2008 file photo, the Energizer Bunny float moves through Columbus Circle during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York.

Fans of 'Christmas Story' celebrate film's 25th year

CLEVELAND (AP)—Fans of the holiday classic "A Christmas Story" are celebrating the film's 25th anniversary with a convention and trips to the house where the movie was made.

The 1983 film, an adaptation of Jean Shepard's memoir of a boy in the 1940s, was set in Indiana but largely filmed in Ohio. The movie starred Peter Billingsley as Ralphie Parker, a young boy determined to get a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas.

The film was a modest theatrical success, but critics loved it. It eventually joined "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Miracle on 34th Street" as a Christmas cult classic.

"It's a film about being a kid and looking back," said Brian Jones, who owns the house where the movie was shot and the neighboring museum dedicated to the film.

About 4,000 fans are attend-

ing the convention at Cleveland's Renaissance Hotel, where they'll meet some of the film's actors, watch three documentaries made about the film and see the original 1938 fire truck from a famous scene in the movie involving a child's tongue stuck to a frozen pole.

"It is unbelievable that a movie has touched the lives of millions of families," said Phil Gillen, son of the late actor Jeff Gillen who played the movie's worn-out Santa Claus. He traveled from Miami with his family to attend the convention.

Avid fans Mark and Becky Tompkins also traveled to the meetup with their children, Madison, 9, and Brandon, 5.

"It's a Christmas movie that you can watch and relate to," Mark Tompkins said. "Everyone, whether they want to admit it or not, really wanted a special gift one holiday."



AP

The original fire truck that was used in "A Christmas Story", a 1938 Ford La France pump truck, gives movie fans a ride around the Tremont neighborhood on Friday, Nov. 28, 2008 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Madonna's film on AIDS in Malawi airs on Sundance

NEW YORK (AP)—Madonna's awakening to the crisis in Malawi—an impoverished African nation where one million children are orphaned by AIDS—had many consequences.

She adopted one of those orphans, her 3-year-old son David. She is building a school there.

And she has told Malawi's harrowing story in her documentary, "I Am Because We Are." With an audience thus far limited to isolated theater screenings, it will be screened for everyone with its TV premiere on Sundance Channel at 9 p.m. EST Monday (World AIDS Day).

The feature-length film was written, produced and narrated by Madonna (directed by Nathan Rissman). It consults experts including President Bill Clinton and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

But the film's real power is

its images, which are often dismaying but, here and there, reflect hope and a remarkable will to survive.

"I had many goals," said Madonna during a phone conversation from her Manhattan home a few days ago. "I did get to a point where I thought, 'I'm being over-ambitious, I'm trying to say too much, I'll never accomplish it.' But I feel proud of the fact that I did get to make all my points."

Among her points: an insistence that any crisis comes with solutions, however hard-won and piecemeal.

The film offers its audience a menu of constructive responses.

"If all you can do is live life in YOUR world in a way that shows you are responsible for the people around you, that's a course of action," said Madonna. "People can be of service in large ways and small."



The first wide exposure of "I Am Because We Are" may be coming at a propitious time, which befits the pop superstar who made it, with her knack for anticipating and identifying cultural trends.

On the eve of a new presidential administration, Americans seem set on a more idealistic path, however alarmed they may be by economic threats along the way.

"People really are going, 'Wow! I can no longer ignore what's going on around me.' There are changes in the air," she said.

Madonna's busy schedule

continues apace. But the artistic life that drives it "is a world you create and you inhabit, to express yourself, and to inspire and reach out to other people," she explained. "It's also a consolation, a place you go to to protect yourself." That's true now, in particular, during her highly public split with Guy Ritchie, her husband of eight years, which she described as

In this image released by the Sundance Channel, pop star Madonna is surrounded by children in Malawi in a scene from her documentary, "I Am Because We Are," airing on the Sundance Channel on Monday, Dec. 1, 2008 at 9:00 p.m. EDT.

AP

"not easy, I'm not going to lie."

Though on a brief New York break from her concert tour, Madonna said the day's long to-do list called for this AP interview to be followed by interviews she would be conducting herself: with prospective head mistresses for the girls school she is building in Malawi.

"We're all going there together at the end of March," she said, referring to David, 8-year-old son Rocco and 12-year-old daughter Lourdes.

"I'm very involved in a lot of things that are going on there," she said, and as she makes return visits with her kids, she wants them to gather insights into the plight of the world's underprivileged.

PR actress Roselyn Sanchez marries Eric Winter

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Puerto Rican actress Roselyn Sanchez has gotten married at a historic San Juan fort in front of 250 guests that included Eva Longoria Parker.

Sanchez and actor Eric Winter arrived Saturday at the San Cristobal fort in a white Mercedes

Benz. Guests also included actor Amaury Nolasco and Gov. Anibal Acevedo Vila and his family.

Sanchez wore a princess-style dress with hand-embroidered pearls and diamonds created by Venezuelan designer Angel Sanchez. Winter wore a Calvin Klein suit.

The couple expects to honeymoon in the Mayan Rivera.

The 35-year-old Sanchez appears in the CBS series "Without a Trace" and produced the 2007 movie "Yellow." The 32-year-old Winter has appeared in the soap "Days of Our Lives."

THREE WISE GUYS

Bumper-sticker ethics, music, missed connection

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and DAN ZAK
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Oh, Wise Ones: Recently I saw a bumper sticker that said, "On my way to work. Please, someone: Kill me now!" If someone took this seriously and shot the driver, would they be able to argue successfully in court that they were just following the victim's wishes?

Dan: Not if the driver was going somewhere other than work, because then the driver's character could be called into question. If he was lying about his destination, then he might be lying about his wish to be murdered. Look up the Supreme Court case *California vs. Heim*.

Joe: Guns don't kill people. Bumper stickers with guns kill people.

■■■

Wise Guys: I'm 48, and my friend who is in her late 20s says I only listen to depressing music. Can you help me find some non-depressing music that isn't too pop, country or trite? I've pulled the last seven albums I bought, and it really is girl-heavy. Here's the list: Lucinda Williams' "Little Honey," Robert Plant and Alison Krauss' "Raising Sand," Amy Winehouse's "Frank," Shelby Lynne's "Just a Little Lovin'," Emmylou Harris' "All I Intended to Be," Ruthie Foster's "The Phenomenal Ruthie Foster" and Joan Osborne's "Little Wild One." See my problem? I need help, if only to get some music sung by men!

Joe: It's not men you need; it's different women. How about Santogold? She's smart, sharp, sizzling. Or M.I.A.? Political and punchy.



THE WASHINGTON POST

The Washington Post offers Three Wise Guys, advice on life and other stuff from the male perspective, perpetrated by Post staffers, from left, Justin Rude, Joe Heim and Dan Zak. It may not be professional advice, but their responses to reader questions serve up a deft handling of any conceivable topic.

Dan: Sounds as though someone needs to discover master tunesmith Randy Newman, whose stuff sounds cheery but is actually woeful. Best of both worlds.

Justin: Up-tempo male-fronted music that isn't pop, country or trite? Sounds like throwback metal to me! I recommend the Sword, Mastodon and Witchcraft. That last one may sound feminine, but I promise they're dudes. Swedish dudes.

■■■

Dear Wise Guys: Here's my situation. It was a cold morning when Metro decided to kick all of its passengers off at the Reagan Airport stop. Three trains later, I ended up sitting next to this really awesome guy. Only problem is that I never got his name nor gave him mine. I know where he works (George Washington University Hospital) and the times he gets on and off the Metro. How do I find this guy? I don't want to be a stalker hanging outside Foggy Bottom waiting for him. I'm a 27-year-old chick

who has been looking to meet someone normal.

Dan: Take a day off from work and stake out the GW hospital cafeteria. If he sees you and remembers you, just say you're there visiting your Aunt Tessie. Who just died. Then get yourself a pity date.

Joe: There's nothing wrong with being a stalker. You just need to commit to it. Contract an illness and get yourself admitted to the hospital. With any luck this guy will be your doctor. Sparks and romance will follow.

Justin: At least until whatever illness you contracted kills you.

Joe: If you work at the GW hospital and think you might be this guy, e-mail us at wise-guys@washpost.com.

Justin: Talk about service journalism.

■■■

This week's motto: Sometimes It's Even Useful (submitted by Rich Pastor, of Rockville, Md.)

■■■

Please send questions to wise-guys@washpost.com.

In Celebration of His New Life



JUAN WESLEY TORRES

Born: May 22, 1952

Was called to his eternal life on Wednesday, November 26, 2008

IN HIS NEW LIFE, HE NOW JOINS HIS:

Father: Jesus Arriola Torres
Mother: Francisca Wesley Torres
Brothers: Jose W. Torres & Joseph W. Torres
Stepfather In-Law: Pedro Magofna

SURVIVED BY HIS:

Wife: Barbara Ada Torres
Children: Frances Torres/Ray Diaz
Eric John, Audrey Jo
Granddaughter: Rayanna T. Diaz

HIS LOVE AND MEMORIES WILL LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF:

Pedro W. & Margarita C. Torres (Bertha, Jackie, Peter Jr., Jesse & Risha)
Rita T. & Malcolm Weidner (Frances & Cathy)
Jesus W. & Tatiana Torres (Jamie, Janel, Vladik & Nicole)
Francisco W. & Diana C. Torres (Pamela, Kalani, Jeffrey & Frank Jr.)
Magdalena W. Torres & Martin DLC. Tenorio (Peter, Julie, Michelle & Tim)
†Joseph W. & Rosita C. Torres (Joseph, Robert & Norman)
Theresita T. & James Applebaum (Renee & Rachel)
Matilde T. & Larry Gozrulak (Jessica, Jennifer & Joey)
Margarita W. Torres & Dr. Vicente S. Aldan (T.J., Vicente & Pomaikai)
Maria T. & Norman Peters (Jason & Tabitha)
Roman W. Torres (Ashley, Fermin, Dionne, Audrey & Ryen)

Brothers-In-Laws:

William Ada/Louise Concepcion (Frances/Francis Taimanao, Keith, Joanna, Shanette, Aileen, Naomi, Richard & Moeisha) Francisco & Joyce Ada (Jonathan & Ann Marie)

He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Holy Rosary is being said nightly at Kristo Rai Church at 7:00 p.m. Daily Mass is being offered every day at 6:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church. Last respect may be paid on Thursday, December 4th, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

Christian Burial Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. Burial will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Dankulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase Ginen I Familia

Meryl Streep enjoys the ride back up

She isn't sure how to explain her career resurgence. But being on top again? It feels great.

By RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Meryl Streep loves to tell the story about how one learns to be king. It dates to her days at Yale Drama School, when the instructor asked the students how to portray a monarch. "And everybody said, 'Oh you are assertive,' and people would say, 'Oh you speak in a slightly deeper voice.' And the teacher said, 'Wrong. The way to be king is to have everybody in the room quiet when you come in.' The atmosphere changes. It's all up to everybody else to make you king. I thought that was really powerful information."

It's hard not to think of that story after one meets Streep, perhaps the reigning queen of American movies, who in the last several years has had an unexpected career renaissance—at 59—playing women who make the DNA of those who encounter her flutter and mutate. It's a rare achievement. In modern Hollywood, only Robert De Niro and Clint Eastwood have had comparable return engagements with audience affection, and they're not actresses, who are routinely considered washed up at 40.

Now, after almost 30 years of being perennially more admired than beloved, the double Oscar winner has been defiantly connecting with the masses, first with her turn as the malevolent but unexpectedly vulnerable fashionatrix in "The Devil Wears Prada," and then as the single mother singing "Dancing Queen" in the ABBA musical "Mamma Mia!," which has so far raked in close to \$600 million worldwide.

Her summer slot for 2009 has already been claimed by the much-buzzed-about "Julie & Julia," a Nora Ephron film that blends the tale of a young temp secretary's (Amy Adams) obsession with chef Julia Child (Streep) with the actual story of Child's years spent in Paris in the '40s and '50s. Streep thinks of her incarnation of Child as a homage to her own mother, who died in 2001 but was much like Child—"these outsize women, for some reason, who have decided who they are early on, and they're fine with it, and that comfort with who they are makes everybody else comfortable and they're able to live an existence with their energy. It's energy and light. The room really lit up when she came in. And Julia had that. She really did."

The Hollywood circuit

It's hard to imagine that Streep doesn't also have this—when she wants it, which is not always, given the rapacious attention paid to movie stars these days.

A recent afternoon found her squashed between round-table interviews and photo sessions for "Doubt," her new film premiering Dec. 12, about the 1964 mano a mano between a nun (Streep) and a popular priest (Philip Seymour Hoffman) she suspects of molesting a student, though there is no direct evidence.

Streep at first seems slightly daunted by the process of perma-sell that has descended on cinema, particularly Oscar-bait films like "Doubt," which require their actors to not only personally sell their wares to the public but to practi-

cally every guild and academy member in America. Still, she quickly rallies, drawing on reservoirs of compassion, intelligence, strategic self-deprecation and a certain insouciant giddiness.

She is dressed in jeans, an oversize olive shirt, with large wooden beads, which she fingers repeatedly when she's not brushing her blond wispy hair behind her ears. Large glasses perch on her nose but can't quite obscure her luminous complexion, the fine points of her famed cheekbones and the faintest of smile lines around

to make that," says Streep. "The smart guysbanked on 'Hellboy' to carry them throughout the year. The 'Mamma Mia!' wagon is pulling all those movies that didn't have any problem getting made. Our budget would have fit in the props budget of 'Hellboy.'"

In the case of "Prada," the filmmakers had to convince Fox Co-Chairman Tom Rothman, whom Streep has known for at least 30 years; he was the adolescent younger brother of a friend of hers. She does a killer imitation of Rothman's nasally voice: "I . . . I . . . I .

ple are crazy! What's the matter with you? Life-hating, life-sucking, desiccated old farts."

The last time Streep won an Oscar was back in pre-history (1983, for "Sophie's Choice"), when Ronald Reagan was president. Since then, she's been to the ceremony 10 times as a nominee, including for "Out of Africa," "Ironweed" and "Adaptation." She's spent many evenings looking cheerful as other actresses walked off with the prize. Sometimes she appeared dutifully glammed out by a professional stylist and on other occasions Streep seemed to have simply hauled clothes out of her closet, like most women in America do when they go out for fancy occasions.

The Oscars are still "very nerve-racking," she says, laughing. "It doesn't stop. It's just like I had four children and it was just as terrifying and unsettling with the fourth one as it was with the first. I supposedly knew more but you don't know what's going to happen. It's just overwhelming . . . it's not like childbirth although some evenings feel like it," she giggles.

As for her fashion sense, she chortles, "I don't know how to be. I mean, I know how to be a lot of things, but I don't know how to be a movie star. I'm trying to learn over time." Streep says she likes the community aspect of the awards, getting to meet people whose works she admires, but the anarchy of the red carpet walk is daunting. "Your head explodes. And my mother said, 'Why don't you enjoy it. Stop being such a hair shirt.' I thought, 'Well, I wish I could, but I haven't really figured out the way to act my way through it.'"

A matter of 'Doubt'

"Doubt" is the kind of movie that could easily instigate another trip to the Kodak. In the

first scene, Streep's character, Sister Aloysius, is seen striding down the aisle during a church sermon, stridently imposing order on wayward parishioners, mostly children. She's swathed in the dark fortress of the nun's habit, but its dark folds only partly contain Sister Aloysius' ferocious energy. She moves her arms with sharp little jabs and speaks in a thick New York accent.

Sister Aloysius is not meant to be initially sympathetic, and indeed, that's part of the point of John Patrick Shanley's film, based on his Pulitzer Prize-winning play. Sister Aloysius is a disciplinarian, a seeming killjoy in a battle with the popular, empathetic priest bent on making the church more accessible, more modern. Yet she's also a relatively powerless woman fighting against the tide of ingrained patriarchy and occasional misogyny of this particular church. And she's carrying out a private crusade against Hoffman's character, based primarily on her intuition.

"My friend Gavin de Becker [the security consultant] wrote a book called 'The Gift of Fear.' It was about

women's intuition and it was about . . . just basically saying if you sense that something's off, if you feel unsafe, you probably are on some level. You're not paranoid, you're probably right," she says. "We're animals. We smell it. We smell danger and I think that Sister Aloysius senses something whether it's from something she knows deep, deep in her past or what it is. She's seen this before."

Despite the nun's harshness, Streep loves her. "I sympathized with her plight, with where she found herself in this world." She was recently trying to explain to her three daughters, ages 17, 22 and 25, how different the world was in 1964. "The opportunities were different for smart, ambitious, directed women and I think [Sister Aloysius] is somebody who has a real pain in her past and sought the church for the solace, certainty, structure, ritual, the purposefulness of a life within the church."

A lingering 'Doubt'

Of course, this is Streep's view—not necessarily the viewpoint of the author. "Doubt" is inherent in every aspect of this joust over faith and authority, and ever since the play appeared on Broadway, audiences have debated whether the priest is guilty or not.

Cherry Jones famously played the part on stage, but Shanley explained that when making the film, he wanted to make the experience his own, not simply repeat what stage director Doug Hughes had done. And Streep was perhaps the obvious choice.

The writer-director says that Streep is conscious of her stature as Meryl. "She uses the fact that she's Meryl Streep in her initial situation with new people. She doesn't give up being Meryl immediately, but it's totally conscious. It's just a ploy," he says, laughing. In fact, although he marveled at her diligence and her facility in running the crescendo of human emotion, it was not until a day of reshoots when he finally glimpsed Streep's doubts, the uncertainty that often accompanies great artistry. "I saw suddenly her vulnerability about the role, how deeply she cared, how worried she was that we got it. She was like a young girl, very vulnerable and very shaky."

It's that unadorned humility that's fostered many of Streep's greatest performances. In the early part of her career, critics noted that Streep often seemed devoted to bringing compassion to women who've been marginalized, like the holocaust survivor Sophie Zawistowski in "Sophie's Choice" or activist Karen Silkwood in "Silkwood."

Older women can feel marginalized, mistrusted or simply ignored. It's hard not to think that Streep is doing her best to imbue her recent characters with traits that our culture sometimes denies them, qualities like sexuality, humor, dignity, compassion and basic humanity. "We're conflicted about women in power. We saw it in Hillary's campaign. We see it in Sarah Palin," says Streep.

"There's a reason it was called 'The Devil Wears Prada.' That's why it was made. If it was 'The Angel at the Head of Vogue Magazine,' no one would go."

Abramowitz is a Times staff writer.



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Legendary actress Meryl Streep says she didn't plot her way carefully back to movie prominence. "I sit at home and wait for the phone to ring," she says.

her eyes. She does not appear to be in some death-knell battle against nature, gravity and food.

Mostly, Streep, who lives in Connecticut and New York, seems gleeful about her professional resurgence, which she says was completely unexpected, and she's not quite sure how it actually happened. "I don't make anything happen. I sit at home and wait for the phone to ring. Really," she says. "Why these opportunities are coming up has less to do with me than all the things I don't understand about how decisions are made here."

Still, she notes that three of the last four movies she has made (including her upcoming untitled Nancy Meyers film) were directed by women, and "The Devil Wears Prada" and "Mamma Mia!" were championed by women movie executives and women producers. President of production "Donna Langley was our champion at Universal for 'Mamma Mia!' Nobody wanted

. . . I don't get it. I'm going to say it right now: Go ahead, make the movie, but it's not my thing."

"So it's hard for them," she says. "People operate on instinct and they do things that kind of make them feel good on some level, and so every time we complain there's not enough things for women, that's because the people that are making the decisions are not turned on by material we are. It's a very simple equation. But [Rothman] has two daughters and he has a wife and he has a lot of smart women executives that said, 'Tommy, this will make money. This will make you a lot of money.' And they were right."

Streep gaily says she doesn't care that "Mamma Mia!" earned her some of the worst reviews of her career. "I knew it would make lots of people happy and you know the reviews came out and when the bad reviews came out, the blogosphere just exploded with women empowered to say, 'These peo-



In this Feb. 9, 2008 file photo, singer Whitney Houston arrives at the Clive Davis Pre-Grammy Party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

View at ‘The View’? Happy, or so says Barbara Walters

NEW YORK (AP)—So you think the ladies of “The View” don’t get along?

Things have never been more cordial, says Barbara Walters, whose weekday ABC talk show pits her with Whoopi Goldberg, Joy Behar, Elisabeth Hasselbeck and Sherri Shepherd debating “hot topics.”

“I don’t know of any five women who get along as well as we do,” says Walters. “We see each other off-camera. Whoopi

is having a big Christmas party for everybody. Last week, Whoopi, Joy and I had dinner together” (only illness kept Hasselbeck and Shepherd away).

The conservative Hasselbeck and liberal Behar “love sparring,” with never any hard feelings, says Walters, who points to the show’s recent robust ratings.

“We’re happy,” she says, “and the show’s success reflects that.”

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Tykwer’s ‘The International’ to open Berlin fest

BERLIN (AP)—German director Tom Tykwer’s action thriller “The International” will kick off the annual Berlin film festival with its world premiere in February.

In the film actors Clive Owen and Naomi Watts play agents trying to uncover the criminal transactions of a powerful bank. Festival organizers said Friday the film would be shown out of competition. Tykwer is best known for the film “Run Lola Run.” He also directed “Perfume” two years ago. British actress Tilda Swinton will head the festival jury. The festival runs Feb. 5-15. The Berlin event is the first of the year’s major European film festivals.

Station takes call letters of TV show

CINCINNATI (AP)—WKRP is back on the air in Cincinnati - but this time it’s for real. A low-power TV station has changed its call letters to WKRP, the same as the fictional radio station in the 1970s hit series “WKRP in Cincinnati.” The station changed its call letters to promote its new digital TV signal. It formerly went by WBQC-TV. General Manager Elliott Block says the new call letters give the station recognition because so many people remember the television sit-com.

Stage actress Patricia Marand dies at 74

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Patricia Marand, who played Lois Lane in the Broadway musical “It’s a Bird ... It’s a Plane ... It’s Superman,” has died. She was 74. Family spokeswoman Maryellen Lee says Marand died of brain cancer Thursday at her Manhattan home. Marand was nominated for a Tony Award for the 1966 musical. She also appeared on Broadway in “Wish You Were Here,” the hit 1952 musical set it a Catskill resort. The show was best known for its on-stage swimming pool and its popular title song. Marand was a regular in summer stock, on television’s “Merv Griffin Show” and often performed with symphony orchestras as well as at New York night spots. Survivors include her husband, Irving Salem.

Whitney Houston denies reunion with ex Bobby Brown

NEW YORK (AP)—Whitney Houston has issued a statement denying the rumors of a reunion with Bobby Brown.

Acting on behalf of Houston, the singer’s publicist Nancy Seltzer calls speculation that the exes are getting back together “a complete fabrication.”

Seltzer pinpoints the rumors to a report in Wednesday’s Chicago Sun-Times that said Houston and Brown had been spotted out and about in Georgia looking romantic.

Houston and Brown divorced in April 2007 after 14 years of marriage. During their tumultuous union, Brown was arrested on drug and alcohol charges, and Houston twice entered drug rehabilitation programs. Houston has custody of their teenage daughter, Bobbi Kristina.

End of the road for Oz Festival

CHESTERTON, Ind. (AP)—An annual Wizard of Oz festival that once attracted 75,000 fans of the classic film to see the actors who played Munchkins has been cancelled, its organizers announced Friday.

Brenda Maynard, president of the Indiana Wizard of Oz Festival, said the low turnout at September’s event caused by heavy rains and flooding was part of the decision to end the festival after 27 years.

“When you add to that the tough economy everyone is up against right now, as well as the advancing age of our Munchkin guests, who are one of the primary reasons this festival is so beloved, we had to make a decision that it’s time to retire the festival,” Maynard said.

At this year’s festival, only three Munchkins from the 1939 film were still alive and well enough to attend. As many as 15 actors who played Munchkins attended the festival during its peak years.

Mary Paschen, the festival’s treasurer, said the festival owes about \$10,000. Paschen and Maynard said its stock of props, artifacts, scenery and costumes will be sold to raise money to pay creditors.

Jean Nelson founded the festival in 1981 after inviting Parnell St. Aubin, who played a Munchkin in “The Wizard of Oz” movie, and his wife, Mary Ellen, to an autograph party at her Chesterton shop and museum, The Yellow Brick Road Gift Shop. Eventually, the festival grew to include a parade and costume contests.

Nelson has since sold the shop, and its new owner said Friday that it also planned to close.

Official: MSNBC pundit may seek Pa. Senate seat

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—MSNBC pundit Chris Matthews may be considering a run for U.S. Senate in 2010, a Pennsylvania Democratic party leader says.

The Patriot-News of Harrisburg reported that Matthews met with state party leaders this past week in Washington to discuss a possible bid to unseat Republican Sen. Arlen Specter.

Party official Mary Isenhour said she left the meeting feeling that Matthews still hadn’t made up his mind.

The 62-year-old Matthews hosts MSNBC’s “Hardball” and provides political commentary on NBC’s “Today.” His contract with MSNBC expires in June.

Matthews, a Philadelphia native, ran unsuccessfully for a Pennsylvania congressional seat in 1974.

Specter, the longest-serving senator in Pennsylvania history, has repeatedly said he is seeking re-election. He would be 80



Chris Matthew is seen on stage at The Women’s Conference, Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2008, in Long Beach, Calif.

if he wins again.

There was no immediate comment from Matthews on Saturday. A reliable home telephone number could not be located and a representative of MSNBC did not immediately return a call.

Woman celebrates holidays quietly and happily alone

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Now that the year-end holidays are here, I find myself once again in the sometimes difficult position of having to explain to acquaintances and co-workers why I don’t celebrate them.

I am single. My parents died many years ago, and I have no family. My only surviving sibling and his wife are both alcoholics who drink to excess over the holidays and cause tension in their family. I have attended Al-Anon meetings, and because I refused to look the other way while they were drinking, I was cut off.

Co-workers take time off at Christmas, but I take mine at other times of the year. Over time, I have found that I would rather spend a so-called holiday catching up on correspondence, taking a walk, reading a good book or sewing. Outside of work or professional organizations, I do not do anything about the year-end holidays. I understand the religious and historical significance of these celebrations and keep them in my heart, but do not observe them in a visible manner. This is my choice.

When people ask me what I’m doing for the holidays, it is an awkward moment. How can I gracefully explain that I choose to keep the holidays in my heart only and enjoy the day as a small vacation for myself?



Dear Abby

LONG BEACH LONER

DEAR LONER: You need no advice from me. Your last sentence expresses your sentiments beautifully.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I’m 6 feet 2 inches, weigh 240 pounds and can bench-press 400 pounds. I practice martial arts and shoot firearms for recreation and competition on weekends. I generally keep my social life to myself unless I am specifically asked because people have made jokes at my expense in the past.

I have worked for the same company for 10 years, and have not only mastered every aspect of my job but also trained most of my co-workers and their supervisors.

Recently, a supervisor’s position opened up, and many thought I was going to get it. A friend was hired instead. He apologized to me, then told me about things that had been said about me behind my back. Apparently, I’ll never become a supervisor because “people don’t respect me; they fear me.” Also, they are “afraid I’ll lose it and kill everyone.”

I have no idea what to say or do with this information. I can’t change who I am, and I can’t change the way others see me after all this time. What would you suggest I do to get myself promoted?

GENTLE GIANT IN FLORIDA

DEAR GENTLE GIANT: It is important that you find out whether what your friend told you is true. While your physique may be imposing, after 10 years at the company your co-workers should be familiar enough with your temperament to know that you do not pose a threat of “losing it.”

Ask your employer why you were passed up for the promotion and if it’s true that you have advanced as far as you can with the company. If the answer is yes, then you should look for a job with more opportunity for advancement elsewhere.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

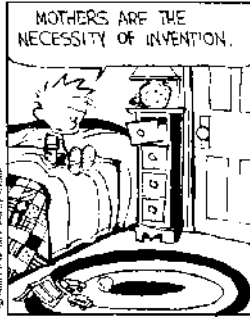
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WHO MADE THIS MESS OUT HERE?!

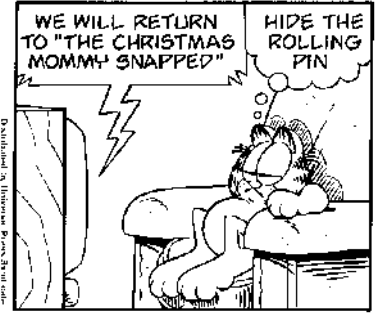
IT WASN'T ME, MOM! IT WAS...
IT WAS A HORRIBLE LITTLE VENUSIAN WHO MATERIALIZED IN THE KITCHEN! HE TOOK OUT SOME DIABOLICAL HIGH-FREQUENCY DEVICE, POINTED IT AT VARIOUS OBJECTS, AND...

MOTHERS ARE THE NECESSITY OF INVENTION.



A GIFT CARD?

I SPEND THREE WEEKS BAKING COOKIES, AND ALL YOU GET ME IS A LOUSY GIFT CARD?!!



WE WILL RETURN TO "THE CHRISTMAS MOMMY SNAPPED"

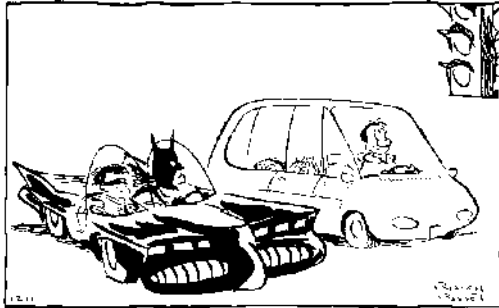
HIDE THE ROLLING PIN

Adam@home

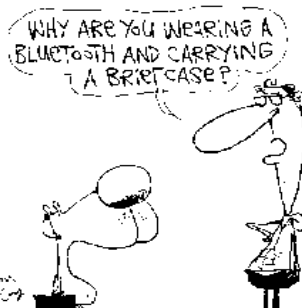
By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

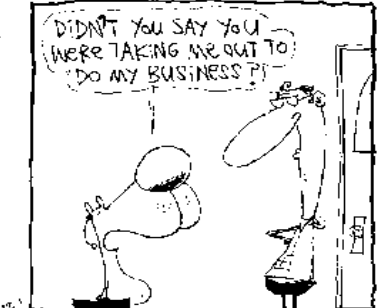
By Glenn McCoy

JINGLE BELLS... BATMAN SMELLS...
ROBIN LAID AN EGG!

HURRY IT UP, FANG!



WHY ARE YOU WEARING A BLUETOOTH AND CARRYING A BRIFCASE?



DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE TAKING ME OUT TO DO ANY BUSINESS?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tear apertures

4 Seashore

9 Encyc. book

12 Historic time

13 Bother

14 Commotion

15 Item in February's mail

17 High-arc shot

18 Chiang — -shek

19 Guarantee

21 Pre-Christmas period

24 Galilee village

25 Extinct bird

26 Carte lead in

28 Black fur

31 Afflictions

33 Omelet need

35 Story line

DOWN

36 Narrow

38 Dadaist

40 A billion years

41 Information

43 Largest state

45 St. George's foe

47 Automobile

48 See 16-Down

49 Odin's maidens

54 Work with

55 Banishment

56 Baseballer's hal

57 Third degree?

58 Cut

59 Greek H

60 Break suddenly

61 Writer Kingsley

62 Toy shop

63 Ratified

64 Large black bird

65 Ranges

66 Game participant

67 Have — to grind

68 Timetable abbr.

69 Decorate

70 Hurry

71 Actress Ullmann

72 Hockey surface

73 Dine

74 Resort

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	G	A	I	A	R	D	I	T	C	I
T	H	E	A	F	A	R	N	O	I	O
O	R	E	S	O	M	E	L	O	U	S
F	U	L	L	S	L	P	T	A	K	E
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L	E	G	O	C	A	K	E	I	N	K
E	D	E	N	A	L	E	S	N	O	S

Saturday's answer 12-1

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sarah Silverman, 38; Carol Alt, 38; Julie Condra, 38; Bette Midler, 63

Happy Birthday: A lot rides on your interaction with others and how you handle situations, so get ready to think before you speak, act out or take charge. Diplomacy is the key this year. There is plenty to consider, much that can be gained and, most of all, friendships that can be salvaged. Your numbers are 9, 11, 17, 22, 26, 43, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Start thinking more about your financial future and stop overdoing it in all aspects of your life. It's time to put a dollar figure on your talent and make the most of the services you have to offer. Put some money away. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can make a couple of adjustments that will help you engage in a brighter future. Consider the job of your choice and focus on what you have to do to get it. Get moving in a direction that will satisfy you financially. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look at the relationships you are involved in and make plans to do things with the people you favor most. Don't hesitate to back away from those who bring you down. You need to be around upbeat, motivated individuals who will spark your creativity. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Let your feelings be known. This is a great time to stabilize your situation at home or to size down if that will help you financially. Your perception of how someone views you may be off if

you let your sensitivity take over. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put your to-do list together and move quickly to complete what needs to be done. Once you have your work out of the way, you can enjoy other aspects of your life. Shop, plan a vacation or socialize with people who make you think and who spark your imagination. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make arrangements to do things with friends who will allow you to explore new avenues. A change in plans will lead to greater love and romance. Shopping will bring practical results. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Sticking too close to home will lead to disagreements with someone you care about. Overindulgence or taking on too much will cause more trouble. Don't push the one you love. Ultimatums will not work. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let anyone bully you or take credit for something you have done. You have to be aggressive if you want to get ahead. A change of plans will actually turn out to be to your advantage. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Work with someone who can teach you and you will be able to incorporate an added twist to your findings. Don't make a snap decision about someone or something if you haven't assessed the situation thoroughly. Time is on your side. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll have plenty to think about financially

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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and personally. Protect your assets. Love looks promising if you are straightforward about your intentions. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you share your secrets with anyone, expect rumors to spread. It may be time to 'fess up to anything you feel guilty about and start anew with someone you care deeply about. A commitment can be made that will lead to greater stability. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do what you say instead of just talking about it. Once you put your plans into motion, you will feel better about yourself and your future. Now is not the time to let others guide you. A good partnership is apparent and will help you achieve more. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, playful and very competitive. You are an adventurer, a thrill-seeker and an enthusiastic leader. You give your all.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3			6					9
			2					
	9	4	3		5	6	2	
		2	7		6	8	1	
6				3				5
	1	3	5		9	7		
	6	8	9		3	1	4	
					4			
1				2				6

Difficulty Level ★

12/01

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	5	2	8	9	1	7	4	3
8	1	3	4	7	5	9	6	2
7	4	9	2	6	3	5	1	8
2	3	1	9	4	7	8	5	6
5	9	8	1	2	6	4	3	7
4	7	6	5	3	8	1	2	9
1	8	7	6	5	2	3	9	4
3	6	4	7	1	9	2	8	5
9	2	5	3	8	4	6	7	1

Difficulty Level: ★★★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letters across spell the Wonderword.

NIAGARA WINES

Solution: 7 letters

E	P	A	C	S	D	N	A	L	I	E	N	S	C
I	H	H	E	R	B	S	C	E	C	T	O	M	N
N	W	C	N	A	L	P	C	I	S	R	I	O	O
V	F	S	I	F	L	I	O	S	K	A	I	U	I
I	N	L	T	R	O	H	L	C	F	T	N	S	T
G	I	R	A	S	C	O	A	N	G	I	N	R	A
O	L	A	L	V	A	J	D	M	R	R	E	I	T
R	L	R	A	T	O	I	E	Y	A	W	A	A	U
A	I	E	P	N	E	R	S	I	N	T	R	P	P
T	K	G	V	E	D	I	S	U	F	I	E	R	N
F	S	T	A	V	D	F	W	O	I	S	T	U	R
H	I	L	L	E	B	R	A	N	D	T	A	R	E
O	N	L	L	N	A	M	L	L	E	Z	N	K	S
M	N	O	E	C	N	E	I	R	E	P	X	E	U
E	I	C	Y	S	T	N	A	R	U	A	T	S	E

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12/1

Accolades, Amateur, Best, Choice, College, Costs, Countries, Deal, Enthusiasts, Event, Experience, Farms, Flavor, Food, Grapes, Herbs, Hillebrand, Home, Inniskillin, Irongate, Jackson, Konzellman, Lake, Landscape, Near, Oas, Pair, Palatine, Pan, Rare, Raif, Reputation, Restaurants, Rich, Senses, Show, Ste, Soil, Strown, Taste, Tour, Valley

Last Saturday's Answer: Guinness

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! \$99 per minute, touch-tone/relay phones. (18+ only). A King Features service, NYC.

Alabama ends 6-year Iron Bowl skid



TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP)—Already No. 1 in the nation, Alabama emphatically reclaimed the top spot in the state.

Glen Coffee rushed for 144 yards and a touchdown and Nick Saban's Crimson Tide snapped a six-year Iron Bowl losing streak with a 36-0 win over bitter rival Auburn on Saturday, the biggest margin in the series in 46 years.

The dominant win set the stage for Alabama (12-0, 8-0 Southeastern Conference) to face No. 2 Florida in the league championship game with a berth in the BCS national title game on the line.

Of more immediate concern for Tide fans, the state belongs to them again. And there was little question of that by the middle of the third quarter when a 10-0 game turned ugly—or beautiful, depending on the perspective.

The loss left Auburn (5-7, 2-6) shut out of a bowl game for the first time in nine years and cast another shadow on the decade-long tenure of coach Tommy Tuberville. Auburn, which had been 7-2 under Tuberville in the rivalry, has lost six of the last seven games after starting the season ranked in the top 10.

No. 2 Florida 45, No. 23 Florida State 15

In Tallahassee, Florida, Tim Tebow threw three touchdown passes, and ran for 80 yards and another score.

Florida (11-1) extended its winning streak to eight games, continued its dominance in the intrastate rivalry and set up a 1-2 showdown with Alabama in next week's Southeastern Conference title game.

The Gators have won five in a row against Bobby Bowden's team, and this one was nearly as big a laugh as last season's 45-12 victory in Gainesville.

No. 7 Texas Tech 35, Baylor 28

In Lubbock, Texas, Graham Harrell capped a 21-point rally for Texas Tech with a touchdown pass midway through



Alabama receiver Julio Jones (8) runs for a first down as Auburn's Jerraud Powers (8) defends during their NCAA college football game at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, Ala., Saturday, Nov. 29, 2008. Alabama won, 36-0.

the fourth quarter and the Red Raiders kept their hopes for a Big 12 South title alive.

The Red Raiders would face Missouri in the conference championship next week if No. 3 Oklahoma loses to 11th-ranked Oklahoma State later Saturday.

A win by the Sooners creates a three-way tie for the Big 12 South with Texas and Texas Tech, leaving it to Sunday's BCS standings to determine which team will play the Tigers in Kansas City, Mo. The Red Raiders have little hope of coming out on top in that scenario.

Kansas 40, No. 12 Missouri 37

In Kansas City, Missouri, Todd Reesing

threw a touchdown pass to Kerry Meier with 27 seconds left.

The Tigers will still play for the Big 12 title, but they'll do so coming off a hard-fought loss to their border rivals.

The Jayhawks (7-5, 4-4 Big 12) led by 16 early in the third quarter, let Missouri (9-3, 5-3) back in it, then traded touchdowns with the Tigers in the fourth quarter before Reesing hit Meier.

Reesing finished 37-for-51 for 375 yards with two interceptions, throwing two touchdown passes to Meier and one each to Dezmon Briscoe and Dexter Fields.

No. 18 Georgia Tech 45, No. 13 Georgia 42

In Athens, Georgia, Georgia Tech had not beaten Georgia since 2000, and it wasn't looking good when the Yellow Jackets trailed by 16 points at halftime.

Then Roddy Jones and the triple-option offense went to work.

Jones rushed a career-best 214 yards, including a decisive 54-yard touchdown midway through the fourth quarter, and No. 18 Georgia Tech rallied to snap a seven-game losing streak against its state rival.

The cold, rainy day wasn't a total victory for the visiting team: Virginia Tech denied the Yellow Jackets a spot

in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game with a 17-14 victory over Virginia.

But Georgia Tech (9-3) celebrated anyway, gathering in front of its small contingent at Sanford Stadium to sing the school fight song while the red-clad Georgia fans headed to the exits, a season that started at No. 1 winding down far short of expectations.

No. 16 Cincinnati 30, Syracuse 10

In Cincinnati, with the Big East championship already in hand, No. 16 Cincinnati turned its final home game into a ho-hum win that matched a school record.

Tony Pike threw a pair of touchdown passes, and the Bearcats' senior-laden defense had its way Saturday in the Orange's final game under coach Greg Robinson.

The Bearcats (10-2, 6-1) are headed to a BCS bowl—likely the Orange or Sugar—for the first time in their history. They clinched the spot when West Virginia lost at Pitt on Friday, taking the drama out of the last home game a day later.

No. 20 Boston College 28, Maryland 21

In Boston, Billy Flutie, the Boston College backup quarterback and nephew of Heisman Trophy winner Doug Flutie, threw for a 9-yard touchdown on a fake field goal Saturday to lead the 20th-ranked Eagles to a spot in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship.

BC (9-3, 5-3 ACC) will play Virginia Tech on Saturday—the second straight year the former Big East foes will play for the ACC's spot in the Orange Bowl.

Maryland (7-5, 4-4) fell to 4-1 against ranked teams this season and into a logjam of ACC teams seeking a secondary bowl berth—the conference has 10 teams competing for nine guaranteed spots.

Giants receiver Burress shoots self in right thigh



NEW YORK (AP)—Super Bowl hero Plaxico Burress accidentally shot himself in the right thigh and spent the night in the hospital, another dramatic turn in a tumultuous season in which the star New York Giants receiver has been fined and suspended.

The Giants said the shooting happened Friday night and he was released from the hospital early Saturday. The team did not say which hospital Burress went to or how badly he was injured.

However, a team official told The Associated Press that Burress shot himself in a nightclub. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the team was still trying to sort out all the facts.

"Our primary concern is for Plaxico's health and well-being, and given the circumstances, we are relieved to say he was released from a New York City hospital," the Giants said in a statement.

New York City police said they were investigating whether the incident took place at Latin Quarter, a sprawling 15,000-square-foot, two-story restaurant and club located in the Radisson Lexington Hotel in midtown Manhattan.

Phone messages and an e-mail left at the nightclub were not immediate-

ly returned.

Police added that they have not spoken to Burress or recovered the gun used in the shooting.

Newsday reported Burress has a concealed weapon permit from the state of Florida that expired in May 2008. It is unclear if the permit was renewed; such a license can be renewed up to six months beyond the expiration date in accordance with section 790.06(11)(a) of Florida Statutes.

However, the states of New York and New Jersey do not recognize permits from Florida, so Burress could be charged in the incident.

The NFL also is likely to investigate whether Burress violated its Personal Conduct Policy, which might lead to a suspension.

The Giants, who are 10-1 heading into Sunday's game at Washington, said they have been in contact with the 31-year-old receiver since the shooting and have discussed the matter with NFL security.

"This incident could become a matter for law enforcement officials, and because of that we have no comment on any of the details," the team said.

Repeated phone calls to Burress'

home and his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, were not immediately returned.

Added NFL spokesman Joe Browne: "We are gathering information, just like everyone else."

Burress injured a hamstring two weeks ago against the Baltimore Ravens. The Giants said Friday he would not play against the Redskins. He was shot less than 12 hours later.

Burress was suspended for a game against Seattle on Oct. 5 and fined \$117,500 for missing a team meeting and failing to notify the team of his absence. He said he had a family emergency.

He also was fined \$45,000 by the NFL for his conduct during an Oct. 19 game against 49ers in which he abused an official and tossed a ball into the stands.

"Like I said, I am human," Burress said last month in discussing his run-ins with the team. "I have made some mistakes. I haven't made the best of decisions, I am aware of that, and I am the first one to look myself in the mirror, be honest with myself, and say that."

"But as far as me going out and playing hard, I am going to keep going out and competing," he added. "Like I said, I just keep going out and doing what is



In this Feb. 4, 2008 file photo, New York Giants' wide receiver Plaxico Burress gestures number one after getting off a team bus at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., as the Giants returned from the Super Bowl in Arizona. Burress was accidentally shot in the leg at a nightclub, it was reported Saturday, Nov. 29, 2008. Sources say the wound was not life threatening and it was not clear at what club the shooting took place.

asked of me on the football field, and in whatever that role may be I hope I go out and fulfill it."

While the team can find it tough handling Burress, he is clearly a playmaker who poses a threat to opponents.

Burress caught the winning pass in

the Giants' Super Bowl victory against the New England Patriots, capping a season in which he caught a career-high 12 touchdowns. He was belatedly rewarded, signing a five-year, \$35 million contract hours before the season opened in September.

Knicks set records in win over Warriors



NEW YORK (AP)—Chris Duhon had a franchise-record 22 assists, David Lee had career highs of 37 points and 21 rebounds, and the New York Knicks rang up a record-setting 82 points in the first half in a 138-125 victory over Golden State on Saturday night.

Duhon set Lee up for numerous dunks against the defenseless Warriors, who completed a winless five-game Eastern trip and looked as if they couldn't wait to get home. One of the slams, with 3:09 remaining, allowed Duhon to break Richie Guerin's franchise record of 21 assists set on Dec. 12, 1958.

The Knicks raced to an 82-64 half-time lead behind 20 points from Lee. His basket with 3.4 seconds left let New York shatter the record for most first-half points at the present Madison Square Garden, set when Kansas City scored 81 on Dec. 8, 1979.

Al Harrington, acquired from Golden State last week, added 36 points and 12 rebounds for the banged-up Knicks, who used only seven players.

New York traded Zach Randolph

and Jamal Crawford, its top two scorers, in separate deals last week, and Nate Robinson was out with a strained groin. None of them was missed, as New York shot 51 percent. Duhon scored 12 points.

Crawford, sent to Golden State for Harrington, had 21 points and 10 rebounds. Corey Maggette led the Warriors with 32 points and 12 rebounds.

Celtics 89, Bobcats 84

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Paul Pierce scored 19 points, and NBA champion Boston won its eighth straight game to improve to 16-2.

Kendrick Perkins had 15 points and 12 rebounds, Ray Allen added 15 points, Tony Allen had 11, and Eddie House and Kevin Garnett 10 each for Boston.

Gerald Wallace scored 23 points, and Jason Richardson had 22 for Charlotte.

Thunder 111, Grizzlies 103

In Memphis, Tennessee, Kevin Durant scored 30 points, and Jeff Green added 22 to help Oklahoma City snap a 14-game losing streak.

The victory was Oklahoma City's first on the road and second of the season following an 88-85 win over Minnesota on Nov. 2. Memphis has lost 10 of its last 11.

Russell Westbrook had 12 points for the Thunder, and Damian Wilkins and Desmond Mason finished with 11 each. O.J. Mayo led Memphis with 30 points, while Rudy Gay and Marc Gasol scored 16 each.

Magic 110, Pacers 96

In Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had a season-high 32 points and 21 rebounds and added four blocks, and Rashard Lewis had 24 points for Orlando.

Hedo Turkoglu added 22 points, and Anthony Johnson had a season-high 16. The Magic have won four in a row and nine of their last 10.

Danny Granger had 27 points, and Marquis Daniels added 21 for Indiana.

Cavaliers 97, Bucks 85

In Milwaukee, LeBron James scored 11 straight points for Cleveland late in the fourth quarter and finished with 32.

James struggled much of the

night, going without a field goal for more than 15 minutes in the second half before he led Cleveland on a decisive 11-2 run. He was 12-of-27 from the field and the Cavs shot a season-low 41.5 percent.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas added a season-high 23 points and 17 rebounds to help Cleveland, win for the 13th time in 14 games. Michael Redd returned after missing 14 games with a right ankle sprain to lead the Bucks with 20 points in 35 minutes.

Rockets 103, Spurs 84

In Houston, Luther Head scored 21 points in place of the injured Tracy McGrady, and Ron Artest added 16 points and eight rebounds for Houston.

The Rockets shot 48 percent (39-of-81) and committed only seven turnovers to beat the Spurs for the fifth time in the last 16 meetings.

Tim Duncan had 17 points for the Spurs. Tony Parker had 15 points and seven assists in his second game since missing nine games because of a sprained ankle.

Nuggets 106, Timberwolves 97

In Minneapolis, Chauncey Billups scored a season-high 27 points in three quarters, Carmelo Anthony added 25 points and 10 rebounds for Denver.

The Nuggets have beaten Minnesota seven straight times and 12 of 15.

Randy Foye scored a season-high 25 points to lead Minnesota.

Clippers 97, Heat 96

In Los Angeles, Zach Randolph and Al Thornton each scored 27 points, and Baron Davis, playing despite a stomach virus, had 15 points, nine assists and five rebounds to help Los Angeles snap a four-game losing streak.

Dwyane Wade had 26 points, 11 assists and six rebounds for Miami. The NBA scoring leader missed a desperation 3-pointer as time expired.

Mavericks 101, Kings 78

In Sacramento, California, Jason Terry scored 24 points, and Dirk Nowitzki had 19 points and eight rebounds to help Dallas even its record at 8-8.

Beno Udrih had 13 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for Sacramento. The Kings have lost six straight and nine of 10.

Hawks 102, Wizards 98

In Washington, Al Horford's had a tiebreaking three-point play with 12.4 seconds left for Atlanta and finished with 19 points, 13 rebounds and six assists.

Mike Bibby led Atlanta with 21 points. Antawn Jamison led Washington with 26 points and 13 rebounds, and Caron Butler had 21 points and 10 rebounds.

Nets 105, Jazz 88

In Salt Lake City, Devin Harris scored 34 points, and Vince Carter added 22 points for New Jersey, 4-1 in its last five games.

Paul Millsap led Utah with 20 points and 10 rebounds.



New York Knicks' David Lee, right, fights for the ball with Golden State Warriors' Ronny Turiaf during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Nov. 29, 2008 at Madison Square Garden in New York. Lee had a career high of 37 points and 21 rebounds as the Knicks won the game, 138-125.

NBA BRIEFS

Magic lose Pietrus for at least 3 weeks

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Orlando Magic guard Mickael Pietrus will be out three to five weeks because of a torn ligament in his right thumb. Pietrus averages nearly 13 points and is one of the Magic's main 3-point shooters. He hurt his thumb against Philadelphia last week. Pietrus played with the injury against the Wizards on Thursday but an MRI revealed the damage Friday.

The injury leaves an already thin Magic backcourt even thinner. The Magic are already missing backup guard Keith Bogans because of a broken thumb, and starting point guard Jameer Nelson is nursing a pulled groin.

Walsh hopes for quick solution to Marbury mess

NEW YORK (AP)—New York Knicks president Donnie Walsh said Stephon Marbury's situation has "spiraled pend-

ed Marbury for the game against Golden State because the Knicks said Marbury refused to play Wednesday night in a loss at Detroit. The Knicks also docked his pay from that night, with the penalties costing Marbury nearly \$400,000. Walsh said he would probably talk to Marbury and his representation from the players' association Monday to address a stalemate that turned ugly this week. Walsh has said he's opposed to buyouts and agreed that it's difficult to trade Mar-

bury because of his salary of approximately \$21 million, but it seems obvious the Knicks have to do something soon.

McGrady sidelined by sore left knee

HOUSTON (AP)—Houston guard Tracy McGrady missed the Rockets' game Saturday night against San Antonio because of a sore left knee. McGrady also sat out Wednesday night against Indiana, and will miss the

Rockets' game Sunday in Denver. He played Houston's first 15 games, but said before training camp that his knee hurt and needed time to heal after arthroscopic surgery in May. The Rockets said McGrady will consult with doctors on Monday, seeking treatment options. The seven-time All-Star is averaging 15.6 points. Houston guard Brent Barry also missed the game and will be out again Sunday in Denver. He has a strained right calf.

Tazawa moves closer to deal with Red Sox



TOKYO (AP)—Japanese pitcher Junichi Tazawa moved a step closer to signing with the Boston Red Sox after rejecting offers from three other major league teams.

The 22-year-old right-hander contacted the Texas Rangers, Seattle Mariners and Atlanta Braves on Friday to reject their offers, Kyodo News agency reported Friday.

Tazawa is expected to hold a news conference early next week to announce his decision. He reportedly received offers from the Rangers, Braves, Mariners and Red Sox.

The hard-throwing Tazawa is a standout in Japan's corporate leagues. He asked Japan's professional teams not to select him in November's amateur draft so that he can pursue a career in the U. S. major leagues.

Tazawa helped Nippon Oil win the

intercity tournament in September and reach the semifinals of the corporate championship that ended Sunday.

No rule prevents American teams from pursuing Japanese amateurs, although current stars such as Ichiro Suzuki of the Seattle Mariners and Daisuke Matsuzaka of the Red Sox first made names for themselves playing in Japan's pro leagues.

Several major league teams have been reluctant to pursue Tazawa for fear of upsetting relations between Major League Baseball and Nippon Professional Baseball.

After Tazawa made clear his intention to bypass Japan's draft, Japan's professional baseball teams agreed to introduce a ban on players who return to the country after opting out of the amateur draft in order to play for overseas pro teams



Tazawa

Net Fighters, Smash Killers crush opponents

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Net Fighters went 4-for-5 in their doubles matches to pull off a 4-2 upset over Day 2 leader

Green All-Stars at the resumption of action in the 2nd Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Net Fighters dropped their first two games, but came out fighting on Day 3 to move out of the bottom of the team standings.

An 8-10 record after Day 3 put the Net Fighters in fourth place, while the All-Stars are still on top, but share the lead with two other teams.

The tandem of Keno San Pablo and Pauline Cielo gave the Net Fighters their first win on Day 3, topping the pair of Roding Domingo and Lupe Sabino in the mixed doubles CC, 21-11, 19-21, 21-8.

Team captain Ed Sikayun

and Alvin Alvarez made it 2-0 for the Net Fighters when they downed Jojo Savellano and Edwin Montoya in the men's doubles BB, 11-21, 21-18, 21-9.

Sikayun then teamed up with Angeline Ito to thwart Montoya and Lea Estinopo in the mixed doubles AB, 15-21, 21-11, 21-14.

The Net Fighters' fourth win came from the duo of Cheng Saturno and Ric Blue, who defeated Christy Villaflor and Domingo in the mixed doubles BC in straight sets, 21-13, 21-15.

The Green All-Stars won in the mixed doubles BB with the tandem of Gerry Balarao and Estinopo prevailing over Alvarez and Shirley Kim, 21-12, 21-15. Balarao won the lone men's singles match of the day beating Alvarez, 21-17, 21-11.

In other results, the Smash Killers recovered from a loss in Day 2, while the Gray Hawks forced a draw to tie the All-Stars in the No. 2 spot. The three teams have similar 11-7 records.

The Smash Killers, who bowed to the All-Stars on



The Net Fighters pose for a group photo before playing on Day 4 of the 2nd Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament Saturday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Day 2, whipped the Blue Powers, 5-1.

The Smash Killers won the lone singles match and four doubles games against the Blue Powers.

Juneh Padua and Alfred Acosta foiled the Smash Killers' bid for a sweep when the pair outclassed Lucelle Lampera and Andrew Galvez in the mixed doubles BC, 22-20, 18-21, 24-22.

But the lone win was not enough to save the Blue Powers from dropping to a 5-13 record for the last place in the team standings.

The Gray Hawks and the Red Dragon Shuttlers split their games with the former prevailing in the women's doubles CC, mixed doubles BC, and men's singles B. The Shuttlers won in the mixed doubles BB, men's doubles

AB, and mixed doubles AB.

In the other pairing on Day 3, the Bad Master improved their record to 10-8 and gained the No. 2 spot after defusing D'Bombers, 4-2.

The Bad Masters won in the mixed doubles BB and AB, men's doubles AB, and the men's doubles B.

D'Bombers dropped to a 7-11 record and are second to the last place.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Smash Killers' Elna Curate moves toward the net during their game against the Blue Powers on Day 3 of the 2nd Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pc	GB
Boston	16	2	.889	—
New Jersey	8	7	.533	6 1/2
Toronto	8	7	.533	6 1/2
New York	8	8	.500	7
Philadelphia	7	9	.438	8

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pc	GB
Orlando	13	4	.765	—
Atlanta	10	6	.625	2 1/2
Miami	8	9	.471	5
Charlotte	5	11	.313	7 1/2
Washington	2	12	.143	9 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pc	GB
Cleveland	14	3	.824	—
Detroit	10	5	.667	3
Chicago	7	9	.438	6 1/2
Indiana	6	10	.375	7 1/2
Milwaukee	7	12	.368	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pc	GB
Houston	11	6	.647	—
New Orleans	9	6	.600	1
San Antonio	9	7	.563	1 1/2
Dallas	8	8	.500	2 1/2
Memphis	4	13	.235	7

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pc	GB
Denver	11	6	.647	—
Portland	11	6	.647	—
Utah	11	7	.611	1/2
Minnesota	4	11	.267	6
Oklahoma City	2	16	.111	9 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pc	GB
L.A. Lakers	13	1	.929	—
Phoenix	11	6	.647	3 1/2
Golden State	5	12	.294	9 1/2
Sacramento	5	14	.263	10 1/2
L.A. Clippers	3	13	.188	11

Friday's Games

Toronto 93, Atlanta 88
Boston 102, Philadelphia 78
Cleveland 112, Golden State 97
Miami 107, Phoenix 92
Detroit 107, Milwaukee 97
Minnesota 105, Oklahoma City 103
Charlotte 115, Indiana 108, OT
San Antonio 109, Memphis 98
Utah 120, Sacramento 94
Portland 101, New Orleans 86
L.A. Lakers 114, Dallas 107

Saturday's Games

Orlando 110, Indiana 96
Atlanta 102, Washington 98
Boston 89, Charlotte 84
New York 138, Golden State 125
Oklahoma City 111, Memphis 103
Denver 106, Minnesota 97
Houston 103, San Antonio 84
Cleveland 97, Milwaukee 85
New Jersey 105, Utah 88
Dallas 101, Sacramento 78
L.A. Clippers 97, Miami 96

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMBF STANDINGS

(After Day 3)		
All Stars	11	7
Gray Hawks	11	7
Smash Killers	11	7
Bad Masters	10	8
Dragon Shuttlers	9	9
Net Fighters	8	10
D'Bombers	7	11
Blue Powers	5	13

TOTTOTS

From Page 28

out three to lift the Tottots to another title win.

The Tottots defense allowed no Team Familia runners to pass second base. Team Familia's Jeffrey Lizama reached second base on a Dandan error at the top of the first, but failed to advance when leftfielder Cody Kaipat flied out.

In the next two innings, Dandan threw out Team Familia's first three batters.

The Tottots scored one run in the first, two in the third, and three in the fourth to take a 6-0 lead. Dandan added two more in the fifth forcing Team Familia to score at least eight runs to extend the game.

But Team Familia was not up for the challenge, as only extra hitter Ethan Lizama advanced and the team was done after

only four batters.

Third baseman Jacklyn Saralu led off for Team Familia at the top of the sixth and was struck out. Evalynn Lizama was next at-bat, but flied out to right field. Ethan Lizama singled, but was stranded on first when fourth batter Frank Lizama's line drive was caught by Dandan's pitcher for the third out.

In the 13 to 15 age group finals, the Patriots pulled off a 5-2 win over Kagman.

The Pats, who dominated the Majors of the Saipan Little League in the past three years, fielded the core of their SLLB team in the weekend tournament to claim another title for the club.

Brian Camacho went 3-for-3 at-bat scoring two runs and one RBI. Chris Mizer also had an RBI and went 2-for-3 at the plate. Ton Salas scored the Pats two other runs on a Jared Sablan sacrifice fly and

Mizer's single, while Tre Rauliman had one run on Camacho's single.

Kagman made it into the scoreboard only at the bottom of the sixth inning with Ricardo Dela Cruz and Arthur Jebehn scoring one run each.

Brabu and the North All-Stars were dueling for the 16 to 18 division title yesterday, but the results of the championship game were unavailable at press time.

PANGILINAN

From Page 28

Phillips. "For some reason, everyone except Senen was making mistakes."

Pangilinan marched to the finals by sending Nolan Cultura, Primo Rivera, Ron Chisato, and Lucido to the losers' bracket. Rivera had beaten Dean Santos, while Chisato topped John Mongami and

Taylor Watanabe. Watanabe had notched a win against Franz De Luna.

Juancho Mendoza ran the table against Roger Espiritu, the only sure way to beat the defending champ. He then fell to two-time champion Soriano, who had just defeated R.E. Rengii.

Lucido reached the winners' final by winning against Rico Montano, Erwin Gomez, and Soriano.

Espiritu eliminated Rengii in a repeat of last year's championship, but fell to Rivera. His victory string stopped at one, as Chester Hamoy came back from a first-round loss to Gomez by climbing past Montano, Watanabe, Rivera, and Chisato.

Santos topped Cultura, but was eliminated by Mendoza. Mongami also had a short comeback, beating De Luna before falling to Gomez, who

also shot down Mendoza before losing to Soriano.

Soriano then stopped Hamoy's streak at four and moved past Lucido to play in the championship. He started strong against Pangilinan, but an errant bank shot dropped the 8-ball early and handed first place away.

The trophies were provided by Pacific Amusement, while MARPAC provided Bud family giveaways.

USSP also holds regular 8-ball tournaments on Mondays starting at 8pm. The entrance fee is \$5 for the double-elimination contests.

"There's been some interest in starting 9-ball tournaments again and in having a government league," said Phillips. "Call or come by if you're interested."

For more information on pool at USSP, call Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. (USSP)

ESTOLAS

From Page 28

the previous play. Had he made the first one, NRG could have tied the game at 116-all.

Estolas second free throw went in cutting Reliance lead to one, 116-115, with 32 seconds left in the game. C&R then played good defense forcing Peter Mendiola to take a triple from the top of the key with the 24-second shot clock wining down. Mendiola had an airball and the possession returned to NRG when Nate Mateo failed to save the ball from going out of the baseline after Mendiola's miss.

With eight seconds left on the clock, NRG coach Marvin Deo-

cares called a time out.

It was evident that Estolas will be taking the shot for NRG, as he moved too close to James Villacrusis, who inbounded the ball from the midcourt in front of the scorers' table.

At first, Mateo and Bernard Montano stuck to Estolas, but when Estolas got the ball, Montano moved out of the way allowing the former to escape past Mateo and drive to the middle. Mendiola was the last line of defense for Reliance, but the bulky forward failed to stop Estolas, who bumped into his defender, nearly lost his balance, but was able to pull up for a side shot and made the basket.

With no time out left and with only three seconds remaining

on the clock, Reliance's Ivan De Vero inbounded the ball and pitched it to Montano, who lost the possession as he went up for a jumper from the right wing against Errol Peredo.

Estolas sent the game in overtime after driving to the middle and making a banked shot against the outstretched arms of Edmark Mendoza in the last six seconds of the regulation.

The lost ousted Reliance from the tournament, while the win moved NRG to the next round along with MIGS and Diamond Auto Care.

The three teams joined pennant champion Century Insurance in the next round of the playoffs, which have a double-elimination format.

Century will face NRG in

the second game in the second round of the playoffs tonight, while Diamond and MIGS will collide in the first match. First game will start at 6:30pm.

MIGS advanced to the next round after an easy 95-82 win over San Miguel Light Wednesday, while Sonny Ranola's 49 points lifted Diamond over Aon Insurance, 116-84, Saturday night.

Saturday's Games

Diamond 116—Ranola 49, Esdrelon 19, Cosino 17, Fernandez 19, Guiab 10, Tamondong 5, Talania 4.

Aon 84—Catalla 22, Apelo 15, De Dios 15, Factor 12, Abuy 9, Pantola 4, De Guzman 3, Santos 2, Sumira 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-17,

52-42, 85-61, 116-84.

NRG 117—Estolas 33, Cruz 28, Peredo 25, Villacrusis 12, Villarin 8, Capalad 6, Artates 2, Camacho 2.

Reliance 116—Mendoza 32, Mendiola 24, Arreza 19, De Vero 15, Mateo 11, Montano 10, Mercurio 7, Umali 3.

Scoring by quarters: 28-22, 48-46, 82-77, 103-all, 117-116

Wednesday's Game

MIGS 95—Bernardo 38, Cadagat 26, Lerio 113, Demapan 6, Basila 6, Capalad 3, Diycio 3.

San Miguel 82—Sanciangco 24, Itaas 16, Lauron 10, Abenoja 8, Garon 8, Reyes 7, Lansang 5, Ritual 4.

Scoring by quarters: 27-33, 49-39, 67-65, 95-82

The Week in Sports

Athletes, teams show supremacy



MHS's Rezne Wong is all set to plunge into the pool after teammate Maryanna Gramlich completes her 50m swim in the 200m free-style medley relay event in the 2008 All Schools Championships at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

DAN KIMBALL

SIS's Michael Johnson plunges into the pool during the 50m backstroke event.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Eventual Turkey Trot top finisher Eli Torgeson nears the top of Mt. Tapochao.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Dominance was the theme of last week's individual and team competitions.

In the 2008 All Schools Swimming Championships organized by the Saipan Swim Club, Whispering Palms and Saipan International School continued their winning traditions in the annual event.

Whispering Palms ruled the elementary division of the All Schools swim meet for the fifth straight time, while SIS topped the high school and junior high school divisions for three years in a row.

Frequent swim races winners Kai Staal, Rezne Wong, and Kensuke Kimura were in their usual dominant form in the 2008 edition of the All Schools.

Staal had record-breaking swims in the boys' 13 to 14 age groups' 50m (part of the 200m freestyle medley) and 100m freestyle races. Wong set a new CNMI record and boys' 18-and-under mark in the 100m breaststroke, while Kimura shattered the 400m freestyle record in the boys' 11 to 12 age group.

In bowling, Raphael Zapanta prevailed in the November roll-off to claim his eighth Bing Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament title.

Besides the November tournament, Zapanta also won in February, March, May, June, July, August, and October editions of the monthly event.

Emi Williams ruled the Queen of the Lanes in October and made it back-to-back when she topped the November roll-off. Jon Eparwa claimed the King of the Lanes title.

In two races that both finished at Mt. Tapochao, Eli Torgeson reached the peak first on both occasions.

First was during the 3rd Annual

Tough Love Mountain Bike Race on Nov. 23 with Torgeson finishing the race in record-breaking fashion. He clocked 29 minutes, 18 seconds, breaking the 32:03 mark set by Steve Smith in the inaugural race in 2006.

XTERRA World veteran Mieko Carey was the first female to finish the race, successfully defending the title she won last year.

Six days after conquering Mt. Tapochao in an MTB race, Torgeson returned to the highest peak on the island—this time with only his shoes and strong legs helping him survived the hilly course.

Torgeson topped the 2008 Annual Turkey Trot Fun Run in a blistering 34 minutes, 20 seconds passing Stuart Smith's time of 36:46 in 2006.

Mamiko Oshima-Berger, who was runnerup to Carey in the MTB race, was the top finisher in the women's division of the Turkey Trot, clocking in at 44:09.

In softball, defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs continued its dominance in the men's division of the Budweiser 2008 Inter-Government/Business Softball League with its perfect 5-0 record.

Northern Marianas College is also undefeated in three games in the women's division.

In badminton, after two days of tournament, the Green All-Stars are leading the 2nd Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament with a 9-3 record.

In basketball, Daniel is still on top of the team standings in the 2008 CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-3rd Genesis Cup with its 5-1 slate.

Deviating from the week's theme were the PTI Voyagers, who won their first title in the Agingan Division of the Saipan Billiards Association's Budweiser Open 8-Ball League ending SaipanCell Hustlers' two-year reign.



Tough Love top female finisher Mieko Carey, left, poses with race organizer Russ Quinn.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Gerry Balarao of the Green All-Stars stretches for the shuttlecock.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Members of the PTI Voyagers team pose during a break in their game against USSP Wat-Ever in the Saipan Billiards Association's Budweiser Open 8-Ball League Tuesday night at the USS Peleliu Club in Garapan.

MARK RABAGO



November Bing Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament winner Raphael Zapanta is flanked by runners-up Marion McKenzie and Zack Cruz during the awards ceremony Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Knicks set records in win over Warriors

Chris Duhon had a franchise-record 22 assists, David Lee had career highs of 37 points and 21 rebounds, and the New York Knicks rang up a record-setting.

25

Saipan Tribune Sports

Athletes, teams show supremacy

In the 2008 All Schools Swimming Championships organized by the Saipan Swim Club, Whispering Palms and Saipan International School continued their winning tradition in the annual event.

27



28 MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tottots, Pats rule youth softball tourney



The Dandan Elementary School Tottots pose with their trophy after ruling the 9 to 12 age group division of the 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Youth Slowpitch Softball Tournament Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Dandan Elementary School Tottots claimed back-to-back titles, while the Patriots added another championship trophy to their rich collection after downing separate foes in the 2nd An-



nual Thanksgiving Youth Slowpitch Softball Tournament Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Tottots shut out Team Familia, 8-0, in the finals of the 9 to 12 age group to rule the tournament for the second straight time.

Dandan's pitcher allowed only one hit, walked five, and struck

See TOTTOTS on Page 26

Pangilinan wins USSP Turkey Shoot 8-Ball



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in last Wednesday's 4th Annual Marianas Turkey Shoot 8-Ball Tournament pose at the USS Peleliu Club in Garapan. Inset, champion Senen Pangilinan smiles during a break in the action.



Senen Pangilinan overcame a strong 16-player field to win the 4th Annual Marianas Turkey Shoot 8-Ball Tournament at USS Peleliu Club last Wednesday.

For his efforts, he took home \$120 and a turkey with his first-place trophy. Sec-

ond and third place trophies went to Jerry Soriano and Joey Lucido. Soriano earned a turkey and \$75, while Lucido got \$45 and a bucket of giveaways.

"With so many good players the difference between first and last place is a couple of mistakes," said USSP's Ken

See PANGILINAN on Page 26

Estolas lifts NRG past Reliance

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Jun Estolas showed the brilliance that earned him several individual awards and championships in past tournaments during their do-or-die playoff game against Reliance Construction in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San

Miguel Beer Basketball League Saturday at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan unplayable.

Estolas nailed a coast-to-coast basket in regulation and an almost off-balanced shot in the last three seconds of the overtime period to lift C&R Distributor/NRG to a thrilling 117-116 win over Reliance.

Estolas's game-winning basket came after he missed one of his free throws in

See ESTOLAS on Page 26

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Leftovers

As I munch on the last leftover turkey sandwich wishing I had some of that homemade pan gravy which survived Thanksgiving Day but not Thanksgiving Night, these are the things I'm thankful for these days.

Whoever said, and it may be more than one person, "Without health, you are nothing," was right of course.

Another friend of mine passed away last week. He was one year younger than me. I have lost so many friends over the years on Saipan, many of them my age or even younger. For that reason, I treat each day as precious endeavor to spread joy, happiness and goodwill, knowing too well that our time on the planet is finite, too short really but then, who are we to complain about that?

I am thankful just to be able to write this with a clear mind and strong body, well, except for lower back, left knee and right shoulder. But those things are minor, temporary pains that serve to remind me how alive I really am. It actually feels good to be a little bit hurt!

Masters basketball will start up soon but as tempted as I am to get back on the hard court, I will resist temptation, knowing that I would be good to go for one game, score six points and then probably end up on the disabled list. I tip my cap to all those guys in their 50's who can still get up and down the court. That's why—I'll throw it out there—I admire Ray McDuff!

With benign weather, world-class lagoon and interesting topography, Saipan is truly paradise for fitness buffs who regularly gather outdoors to run here, bike there and swim somewhere. Seeing people like Wolf Mojica, Fred Camacho, Joshua Berger and the barefooted Chang Jang hold back the arms of life's ticking clock is truly inspirational. Like Jim Valvano said, "Don't give up, don't ever give up."

No, I haven't given up, just slowed down. Winning isn't as important as it used to be, except for my fantasy teams and Florida football.

Over the years, I have acquired a greater appreciation for those who volunteer their time to make life a little more enjoyable for our island youth.

Little league is one of the island's strongest programs year after year, simply because of its continuity, adult volunteers and sponsors. To me, playing little league baseball is an essential vitamin for boys 9-12.

The soccer festival a couple of weeks ago had almost as many adults as kids. I think the sport has successfully taken root here and as long as adults give boys and girls an opportunity to play, they will.

Youth basketball, it seems to me, could be stronger but for some reason doesn't attract as many qualified coaches as baseball and soccer here. True, people like Elias Rangamar, Jesse Tudela, Joe Diaz and Joe Tumaquip deserve medals for their extra hours teaching the game to Saipan teenagers. They often coach multiple teams simply because there are so many youngsters who want to play.

Saipan is a good place for a kid to grow up if the boy or girl takes advantage of all the outdoor opportunities. And I'm not talking about barbecues.

C&R Distributor/ NRG's Jun Estolas, right, pulls up for the game-winning basket against Reliance Construction's Peter Mendiola during their game in the PILCOWA caging Saturday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO